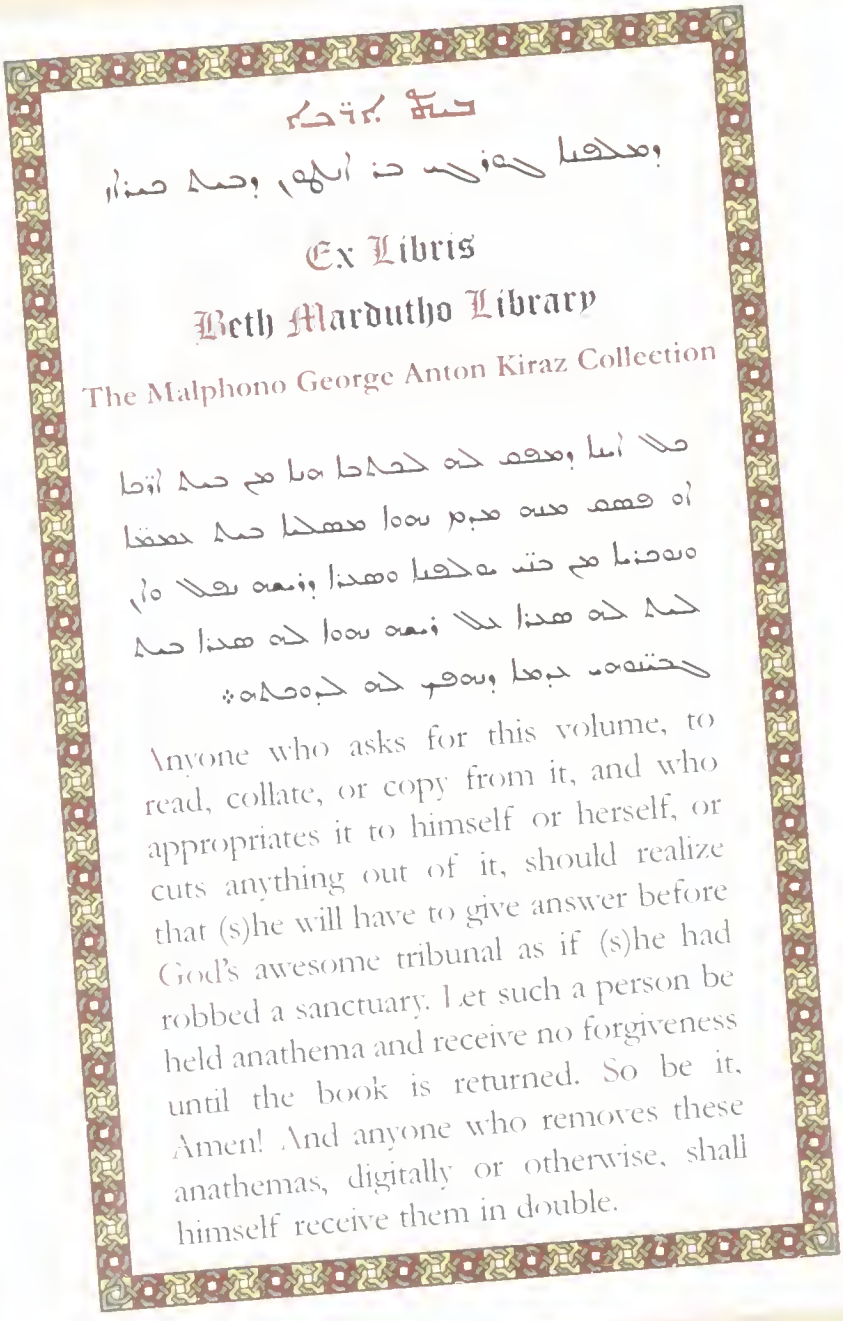
MESSIANIC TEACHINGS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MESSIANIC TEACHINGS

"If anyone comes to you, and does not bring this doctrine, do not welcome him to your house, neither bid him to eat."

(2nd Epistle of St. John 10th Verse)

COMPILED IN MALAYALAM FROM SYRIAC

By

H. G. MAR THIMOTHEUS,

Metropolitan of Malabar & India, Church of the East

AND

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH

By

Rev. M. P. FRANCIS

FIRST EDITION 1957

FOREWORD.

It is not unknown to the members of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of the East, that, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, our forefathers travelled far and wide, spreading the true Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, in all the corners of the world. They converted millions of gentiles who were image worshippers and infidels. Those, who accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour, were given Holy Baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost as is commanded by our Lord. (Matt. 28: 19, 20)

Further, our forefathers then wrote many spiritual books for prayer, Holy Kurbana, Baptism and such other holy services. In those olden days there were no printing presses and so the faithful believers had to spend a lot of time and energy in writing down copies of those books. Even in India we had such innumerable manuscripts.

The Church in India, from its very foundation in 52 A. D., steadily grew day by day and flourished with thousands of Churches, clergymen and lakhs of believers till the advent of the Portughese power to India in the 16th century. They afterwards tried all means to make our congregation accept the supremacy of the Pope. But the true, faithful and devoted children of

the Mother Church of the East, stood against their machinations and refused to yield to them. Then the Portughese authorities began to adopt more barbarous and unchristian measures. By their sea power and control of the sea-routes, they captured the Bishops that were sent to India by the Patriarch of the Church of the East. Many of them were sent to the Inquisition at Goa, some were even burnt alive or drowned and the eyes of some were plucked out. Many were the atrocities perpetrated against those innocent and faithful prelates of the Church of the East, simply to check them from coming to India for feeding their spiritual flock. (Meckenzie P. 23) Another notorious thing that the Portughese did was that they gathered almost all the Holy and Historical books of this ancient church of India and set them to fire and what escaped their vigil were stuffed with the fallacies of the Roman Church. The faithful congregation were so much oppressed by the Portughese that they were driven to the extent of taking the historic oath at Coonan Cross in 1663 at Mattancherry Cochin, S. India, that they would never submit to the Portughese yoke or accept the Papal supremacy. (Nestorian Missionary Enterprise P. 127) The Portughese continued their oppression for a long period. Rev. Thondanat Anthony and three others were sent from India to His Holiness, the Catholicos Patriarch of the

East, for receiving consecration. The three companions of Rev. Anthony died on the way and Rev. Anthony, after much vicissitudes, was ordained as Mar Oudesho, Metropolitan for India, by His Holines Mar Ruvil Shimon, the Patriarch of the Church of the East. He arrived in India in 1864. Even at that date he had to suffer a sad fate at the hands of the Roman Catholics.

After the demise of Mar Oudesho Metropolitan, the congregation were long awaiting for the arrival of a genuine spiritual leader. In accordance with their wish, prayer and hard endeavour, the late Mar Thimotheus Metropolitan was deputed to India in 1908 by His Holiness Benjamin Mar Shimon, the Catholicos Patriarch of the East. He too, had to endure much hardships at the hands of the enemies, on his way to India, as well as after his arrival in this country. He had to undergo a costly litigation, which prolonged for not less than 17 years. But by the Grace of God and by the help and co-operation of the devoted congregation, he was able to come out successful in the end. Then he found some time to devote his attention for the spiritual uplift of the community. Somehow or other he managed to get some of our liturgical books and manuscripts and tried his best to make use of them for the benefit of the congregation. But another great difficulty stood in his way. He was not familiar with Malayalam,

the vernacular of the people among whom he had to work. On the other hand, the people were not able to understand Aramaic, the liturgical language of our Church. By the Grace of God and through incessant hard labour, His Grace learned enough Malayalam within a short period and began to translate some Syriac books into Malayalam, with the help of some of our people. One among these books is the Messianic Teachings.

When we went over to America, in 1952 to be consecrated as a Metropolitan for India, by His Holiness, Mar Eshai Shimun, our Catholicos Patriarch, we saw there many Assyrian people in different states, but American-born. They could not write or speak the Aramaic language and we came to understand that almost all of them were anxious to have our holy liturgical books translated into English. Even, since our arrival at Trichur, we have been receiving various letters from our people, scattered elsewhere, requesting for the translation of available Syriac books into English, especially of those dealing with our dogmas.

As for our part, we too, thought that a translation of the Messianic Teachings into English will be highly beneficial for our English speaking brethren, to know the fundamental teachings and doctrines of our Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of the East. Being unfamiliar with

Malayalam, the language in which "Messianic Teachings" was compiled, we engaged one of our priests, Rev. M. P. Francis, our secretary, who is well versed both in Malayalam and English and who has a fair knowledge of Theology and Church History, to translate the said book from Malayalam into English. He has done accordingly and the translation is appreciated by His Holiness, our Patriarch. While Praying that God Almighty may reward him for his noble endeavour in the cause of our Holy Church and congregation, we express our great pleasure in presenting this catechism to the public.

We fervently hope and pray that the readers of this book will gain enough knowledge about Jesus Christ and His Holy Church and it will be helpful to them for the attainment of eternal life. May God help those who make peace and goodness.

+ MAR THOMA DHARMO
METROPOLITAN.

Metropolitan Palace,
TRICHUR,
31—1—1957.

+ ܡܬܝܠܝܢ ܐܦܝܣܩܘܦܐ ܕܒܐܪ ܥܕ ܒܐܪ ܐܡܝܢ:

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TRANSLATOR'S NOTE.

The original text of the foregoing catechism is a booklet on Theology, compiled from Aramaic and translated into Malayalam, under the title 'The Messianic Teachings' by the late H. G. Mar Thimotheus, Metropolitan of Malabar and India, intending for the instruction and guidance of the congregation of His Grace's diocese. I have now been asked by His Grace Mar Thoma Darmo, Metropolitan, who has succeeded the former, to render it into English for the knowledge of those who can understand it through that medium alone.

I myself had doubted, and even now doubt, the propriety of launching upon such an enterprise with only a limited capacity as that of mine. But being one under orders, I am morally bound to obey my superior, and I have done it. Yet, all the same, I am anxious to assert that special care has been taken not to lose sight of the sense and meaning of the original.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to H. G. Mar Thoma Darmo, Metropolitan of Malabar and India, Church of the East, Trichur, to whose persuation, help and co-operation I owe this publication. My thanks are also due to my

friends, whose suggestions and advices I have found very valuable and practical in carrying out this translation, as well as to the Oriental Printers, Trichur, whose efficiency of labour and promptness of execution have helped me much in bringing out this book so soon.

While presenting this to the English speaking public I ardently desire and earnestly pray that this may be of service to dispel the doubts and misunderstandings about the real theological position of the Holy, Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, which has almost been distorted and misrepresented by hostile and fanatic sectarians.

Chaldean Syrian Church,
(Church of the East)
TRICHUR,
31—1—1957.

Rev. M. P. FRANCIS.

PREFACE

(TO THE FIRST EDITION)

MAR TIMOTHEUS,

BY GRACE, METROPOLITAN OF MALABAR AND INDIA

To all those who are members of the Malabar Church, which proudly adheres to the Syrian denomination, observances, practices and the like

PEACE BE WITH YOU IN OUR LORD JESUS

The fact that this Syrian Church of Malabar and India is none but the daughter of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic See of the East, is quite a clear one to those who are endowed with any sense of discrimination. Her founder and leader had his headquarters established at the Cathedral Church of KHOKHI in the twin cities of Selucia-Ctesiphon. He was bound by the principles and discipline of the Church of the East, as laid down by the unanimous decrees and canons of its Ecumenical Councils. From this patriarchate of the East, from very early days and as necessity demanded, primates with power to impose hands on the necessary clergy, were deputed from time to time to Malabar & India.

Now, Oh! you wise! we would request you to scrutinise carefully and to judge uprightly

the following few shameful facts. Within the past two or three centuries,—as in eccleciastical history "yesterday and the day before",—some, enslaved by those who hate the truth and bearing on their neck the merciless yoke of labour for sowing the weed of destruction in the field of deception, have begun to assert of their real Mother Church that they had never been her children. Alas, they insist that they belonged all along to that "wicked whore, who is fully drunk with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus and that of His saints" and who has ruthlessly enslaved them by rooting out and destroying by burning and erasing all signs and evidences which would have given them some information and reminded them of the Holy Catholic Patriarch and their Mother Church. They now abuse and insult the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of the East, their 'Alma Mater.' Those ignorant weaklings, but proud fools, imitating what their captors do, sing in praise of a Mother, who, in fact, is not their own. As for those who have enslaved them, they have been, from those days forward up to the present time, making incessant attempts and keeping undiminished vigil to transform the faith, doctrines, observances and principles of their slaves and if possible to recast their body and soul even, in a latian mould. Their attempts have almost succeeded and are continuing still.

Yet, if there remains any spark or sign of desire for freedom amongst those blinded slaves, they themselves have in their possession and control ample evidences and documents to prove and convince unmistakably to which congregation they belong, that they are the co-religionists of Easterners and not of Westerners, that it is false to proclaim that "the Malabar Church had all along, from early days, been under the papal jurisdiction" and that the so-called and fictitious connection is only one forced upon their forefathers.

Oh! you who find pleasure in fostering deliberately your own slavishness, as you content without a ground, so too is your position. But, beloved! beware, for ignorant as you are, it is still a sin and a presumption to defy and deny your forefathers, thrusting upon them the aforesaid imaginary connection. Those innocent-ones have already entered into their eternal rest, adorned with a sweet and noble designation, "The faithful members of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of the East." If you judge correctly and speak honestly, truth is our witness, we still love you whole-heartedly. When our Blessed Lord so pleased to reveal Himself to the Jews as the sole hope of Israelites, He commanded them "search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they which testify

of me" (St. John 5:39). We too, with due respect to this instruction, as per the law, demand and request you to search those books you rely upon i. e. 'The order of the Hallowing of the Apostles', 'The Burial Service for the Dead', 'The Canonical Prayers' and the similar remaining Syriac books with you. Yes, search those and they will bear witness to the veracity of our statement, without the least shadow of doubt, that you were not under the Western yoke, but on the contrary were the beloved children of our Mother Church of the East, whom you now reject and scandalise. Even if a son abuses his father and refuses to avow his paternity a thousand times, he is, no doubt, still the son of the father. It can never be established that the son, even though he has turned the servant and slave of a cruel and tyrant master, is not the son of the father.

Besides this group, there exists another sect of people. They too, with raised hands, boisterously and thoughtlessly proclaim, "this Church of Malabar was ours from the very beginning....". Just like their slavish brethren, they also, with fantastic falsehoods, rest themselves contended and elated. In fact, these last mentioned beloved brethren of ours have fallen in ignorance and unknowingly into the abyss. Though the darkness of that abyss has now become pleasing to them, may God, in His Mercy, illumine their

path with the light of knowledge, that they might turn to the bosom of their beloved Mother, the abode of Peace.

Those people, together with their brethren as a sect, are those victimised mercilessly by those ruffians. But, realising in due course, the tyranny and hypocracy of their captors, who hated them as well as truth, and actuated by a sense of their honour and that of their Church, they escaped from among the wolves of darkness to secure the salvation of their body and soul and the promised life. Yet, since they did not contemplate of a forward progress in their race to their beloved Mother's bosom, alas, they faltered and fell in their course into a dry pit. There they remain to this day. But their slavish friends, accepting shame itself as honour for the time being, wantonly stay in all gaiety in the slavedom of the Latin Portuguese, who are the destructors of the ancient Church of the East and who continue to be so even now.

Besides these two sects is seen a small remnant of true believers, who, by divine dispensation, has escaped the slavery of those, who hate truth and from slipping into the ditch, for the fulfillment of the good intentions of His Providence, as best known to Him. If they thus remain true to the end, they can undoubtedly be sufficient leaven for the whole flour scattered

all over Malabar and to saturate and to add them with the one single lump of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church of the East.

Oh! beloved children! who adhere firmly to your beloved Mother, the Holy Church of the East, brethren! who are ruthlessly enslaved by the Portuguese, our friends and brothers! who have erroneously fallen into the abyss and you, who live and die outside the Church of Jesus, designating yourselves to your destruction, as 'Independents' by keeping aloof from the obedience of the Church and the allegiance of your shepherd, what we have concisely described above is quite clear to you also as the bright daylight itself.

But, our beloved children, we well realise the fact that those who unjustly accuse us, aiming at the destruction of the faith of the weak members of our Holy Church, spread all sorts of fal rumours day and night about our Messianic and uncorrupted teachings and belief. They also fabricate vile and satanic blasphemies and present them to the world saying "these are the articles of faith of the (Nestorian)Church of the East." As a natural consequence, our beloved children, they not only mislead you, but pave way for the shameless utterances of lies to establish that the false and heretical teachings, as attributed by them to the Church of the East, were not the religion and belief of

their forefathers, before being enslaved. Not only this, their conscience has become dark in their course of travel through the true path to the bosom of their, as well as your, Mother, whom they now disown downright.

Therefore, though it is beyond our capacity, with a strenuous attempt,—for we are not a competent scholar in Malayalam,—we have now succeeded in presenting you a garland of sweet scented and multifarious flowers of the orthodox and apostolic teachings of our Holy Mother Church of the East, under the title "The Messianic Teachings". This contains, in a concise form, all the principles and roots of the true faith, which each and every one of our laymen should in all sincerity study, believe and observe as described therein and as extremely necessary for the salvation and everlasting life of his body and soul. Any one, who does not possess a faith, revealed through this book, which though small in size is deep and wide in matter, shall never attain either salvation or the promised life. Because of this, we advise and admonish our beloved children, not to throw away this treatise after a single perusal, but to go through this constantly, to meditate on the mysteries contained in it and to pay special attention to lead a life in thought, speech and deed as instructed thereby.

This book, which we now place before you, as a token and free gift of our love towards you and as a help for the salvation of your souls, is one translated from the Aramaic (Syriac) language into Malayalam, your 'lingua franca'. The translator alone realises how arduous a job of the like is. We would have, we think, of a certainty, left it off unfinished, had not our love towards you prompted and compelled us to its completion. But, by Grace of God, and as granted by Him, Praise be to Him, we have achieved our aim of presenting to you, true believers, this book containing the essence of the orthodoxy of the Holy Church of the East and the elementary principles and roots, which the laity should of a necessity study.

Besides our intention of satisfying the wants of the true believers, we wish this booklet shall, not only be a defence against our slavish brethren, dear friends and apostates, who after their desertion, frighten our poor believers by mongering all sorts of scandals against our Messianic faith, but also a help to those beloved brethren of ours who from the abyss into which they have fallen conspire against their Real Mother. Our beloved brethren! read this book in the spirit in which the Holy Bible is written, for almost all the portions of this book are compiled from that. Read this, and realise after its

perusal whether we were speaking, or now speak, the truth. Judge honestly, flee from injustice.

We have, at the very outset, admitted our lack of skill in the Malayalam literature. As such, you can more or less imagine how difficult a process would it be to translate into it from another language. We know for certain that this book is not written in a deserving style. Being incompetent for such a task, we have not paid special attention for the purpose. Our intention, as such, was only that the truth must be manifested even though it is in an ordinary language. By Grace of God we have succeeded in this. Our request, to the scholarly readers is not to blame us, because of the inefficiency of the language, but to become heirs with us and turn our brothers to the true rights contained in this book now submitted to them.

We consider it a necessity to recall to mind in this connection the valuable services rendered by others in the translation of this booklet; and to place on record the gratitude of our heart as they deserve, will not in any way be contrary to the aims of this booklet. We, therefore, tender our best and heartfelt thanks to those who, after our translation, went through the manuscript and suggested some slight alterations in the language and to all those who helped us in various ways in its publication.

"Messianic Teachings" is the name of this book which we now make a present as a token of our love for you. From the title itself, you may more or less imagine the object of this book. We are not at all capable of explaining or exposing the full meaning of the designation. People, who have adopted the policy of controversy and not so much that of piety, might argue that "if this book is the Messianic Teachings then what is the Bible?" But, beloved, be careful. Since it is not an easy task for the ignorant and illiterate to pick up verses, lying scattered here and there in the scriptures on certain topics, we have compiled in a concise form the Messianic Teachings and the commandments. We do not, by this, in any way object the reading of Bible, but only insist and encourage you more and more to read it in love and sincerity, that you may understand it well and thereby inherit eternal life.

We hope God, the Love and the Faithful in His promises, will loudly proclaim to him, who reads, studies and believes this book of the Messianic Teachings and who leads a life in thought, speech and deed in accordance with its instructions, that "you are not far from the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mark 12: 34) as our Saviour once said to that youth.

We beseech God that this treatise may be a means of guidance and salvation for the souls

of the beloved believers of our diocese and of the return of our scattered brethren, who have foregotten the milk of their own Mother, who incessantly mourns for her children, who have gone astray, deserting her bosom. May God shower His Grace and Peace on all those who walk according to this rule and upon the Israelites of God. (Gal. 6: 16). Yes, be it so. Amen.

Pray for us that we may spend the remaining period of our existence in a manner pleasing to God.

Be you guarded and healthy in our Lord Jesus Christ.

From our Metropolitan Palace,
Signed this, the
27th day of February, 1914.

✠MAR THIMOTHEUS
By Grace,
Metropolitan of Malabar & India.

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MESSIANIC TEACHINGS

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in Heaven! Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done as in heaven so on earth. Give us this day the bread of our need, and forgive us our offences as we have also forgiven those who have offended us. Bring us not to trial, but deliver us from the evil one. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE NICEAN CREED

(The Creed of the three hundred and eighteen Fathers)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. And (we believe) in one Lord Jesus Christ: the son of God, the Only Begotten, the First Born of all created. Begotten of His Father before all worlds and not made. Very God of very God, of one essence with His Father by whose hands the worlds were established and everything was created; who for us men and

for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and became man and was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered and was crucified in the days of Pontius Pilate. He was buried and He rose again on the third day as it is written and ascended into Heaven and sat down on the right hand of His Father. And He shall come again to judge the dead and the living.

And (we believe) in one Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, who proceedeth from the Father, the life-giving Spirit.

And (we believe) in one Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church.

And we confess one Baptism for remission of sins, and the resurrection of our bodies and the life for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(Exodus XX 3-17)

1. Thou shalt have no other Gods before Me.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord, thy God, am

a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me; and shewing mercy unto thousand generations of them that love Me, and keep My commandments.

3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God, in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day, wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord, thy God, giveth thee.

6. Thou shalt not kill.

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8 Thou shalt not steal.

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's.

THE SUMMARY (essence) OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Hear! Oh Israel! the Lord, our God, is one Lord, and thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart; and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment: And the second is like to it; namely this, thou shall love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

(Matt. XXII: 37-40; Mark. XII: 29-31)

THE CATECHISM

(Questions and Answers)

CHAPTER 1.

ABOUT THE MESSIANIC GENERAL BELIEF

(Q = Question and A = Answer)

---

1. Q. What is your name ?
   A. My name is.....
2. Q. When did you get this name?
   A. I got this name when I was baptized.

3. Q. Who did you become when you received Baptism?
   A. I became a Christian.
4. Q. By what other name was the Christians known in ancient days?
   A. Nazarenes.
5. Q. What does this word "Nazarene" mean?
   A. It means he who follows the religion of Jesus, the Nazarene. (Acts 24: 5, 14) and the disciple of Nazarene. (Matt. 2: 23).
6. Q. Who else were called by this name?
   A. In ancient days, the Christians of Persia and all those who joined with them were called by this name. Till now, it is used to denote the old Christians of the Church of the East. But there are special names for those who join with the European Christians, "the Portugese" or "the Papists" for those who embrace the religion of the Pope and the general name of "Protestants" for others.
7. Q. Why are you called a Christian?
   A. I am baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost as per the order of Jesus Christ, in Holy Water. By this I became a member or 'limb' of Jesus Christ. (Matt. 28: 19)
8. Q. What happened, then, of this membership?

A. I became the son of God and heir to heaven.

9. Q. What should all Christians believe?
A. They must believe the same which Jesus taught His Church in Holy Spirit, once for all, and which contains in the Holy Scriptures. Apostle Jude exhorts us that ".....ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the Saints." (Jude 1: 3)

10. Q. By what verses do you confess this faith?
A. I confess this faith by "the Nicean Creed."

11. Q. Recite this creed?
A. "We believe in one God....." etc. (Page 1)

12. Q. When was this creed formulated?
A. It was confessed in 325 A. D. at Nicea by 318 Holy Fathers that the matter and teaching of their faith were selected "from the Faith once delivered unto the Saints." **

Note:— (** It is generally known as that of Nicea. But the general Holy Council, assembled at Constantinople in 381 A. D., took some verses from the Nicean Creed and explained and confirmed their meanings. Thenceforth the Church of the East has been using it in its original form without effecting any deviation. But, the Western Church, little thinking of the curse of their fathers, has added the words "from the Son also" to it.)

CHAPTER 2.
ABOUT HOLY TRINITY

13. Q. How many Gods are there?
    A. There is only one God.
14. Q. Can you recite a verse in proof of this?
    A. Yes. "Hear, Oh Israel! the Lord our God is one Lord." (Deuter. 6: 4, 5; Mark. 12: 29, 30)
15. Q. What is another name of God?
    A. It is "Holy Trinity."
16. Q. How many persons are there in this Holy Trinity?
    A. Three. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
17. Q. If so, are there not three Gods?
    A. No, there is only one God. But this is a great mystery which we cannot understand or penetrate at present; but which will be revealed afterwards.
18. Q. Are these three Ones of the Holy Trinity equals?
    A. Yes. They are all equals in might, power and glory (Isa. 6:3), because they are only one single God. All of them are from the first and without a beginning. (Psl. 90:2)
19. Q. Do these Three command anything which collides or contradicts one another?

A. No. They are not three Gods. Being only one God there is only one aim. Therefore, there is no room for a collision or contradiction between their orders.

20. Q. Do you believe "one God in three" and "three in one?"
A. Yes.
21. Q. Is there any example to prove this?
A. Yes. There are many.
22. Q. Give one with proof?
A. Sun. It has matter, light and heat; but it is only one sun.
23. Q. What is another name of God?
A. Jehova.
24. Q. What is the meaning of the word 'Jehova'?
A. "Self-originated" or "Self-existant".

CHAPTER 3.

ABOUT FATHER, THE FIRST PERSON OF HOLY TRINITY

---

25. Q. What is the name of the first Person of Holy Trinity?
A. God, the Father.
26. Q. Why is He called by that name?
A. He is called so for He is the Father of Jesus Christ our Lord and God.

27. Q. How is this ?

A. The son was born of Him, before the world, without a beginning.

28. Q. Is not a father existing before a son and elder than him ?

A. Among men it is so, but not so with God.

29. Q. How could it be thus?

A. Because Father, Son and Holy Ghost are without beginning and the Three together is only one God.

30. Q. State an example to show this?

A. Take the example of the sun itself. There are light and heat with the matter.

31. Q. Is there any evidence of this in Holy Bible?

A. Many. "I and my Father are one." Besides this, Christ again says, "Believest thou not that I am in the Father and the Father in Me." (John 10:30; 14:10)

32. Q. Is God the Father only the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

A. No; in a way He is the Father of all men, and especially of Christians.

33. Q. How is this?

A. He is the Creator of all men (Mala. 2:10), but Christians are born of God by Holy Baptism. (Gala) 4:5,7)

34. Q. By what designation is God known in Creed ?

A Father Almighty.

35. Q. If so, are not Son and Holy Ghost Almighties?

A Yes. All the Three are equals and each One is Almighty.

36 Q. What other designation is there in the Creed for God?

A. "Maker of all things that is visible and invisible."

37. Q. Tell the names of some of the invisible creations of God?

A. The good Angels, the souls of men and satan who is the evil spirit.

38. Q. Say some from the visible ones?

A. The world, men, beast etc.

39. Q. Is God completely good?

A. Yes. God is completely good.

40. Q. Are all the creations good?

A. No. Many from the Angels became bad. All men are sinners.

41. Q. How did these Angels become wicked ?

A. They became proud and revolted against God and tried to become His equals. It is because of this the Holy Bible warns us that we should not self exalt us and to fall like Satan. (Luke 18: 14; 1 Thim. 3: 6 etc.) **

42. Q. Were all the creations good at first?
A. All were good when God created them. (Gen. 1:31.) But after this, some from the creation of their own free will became bad. (Jude 6)

43. Q. Whom did God create before everything?
A. He created the angels.

44. Q. Have the angels got body?
A. No, they have no body.

**(The angels lived in heaven in all pomp and glory and were ignorant of their origin. When they heard the sound of the order "Let there be light" (Gen. 1:3) which Moses, the foremost among the prophets, has recorded in his Book of Creation, as inspired by the Holy Ghost, they thought that, as they were light (Psl. 104:4, Heb. 1:7), the one who issued that order "Let there be light" might be the One who created them. Accordingly, they began to worship Him. But when on the sixth day God said, "Let Us make man in Our own image after Our likeness" (Gen. 1:26) the angels eagerly awaited to have a look at that creation for they were to worship him as St. Paul has said "and again when He brought the First Begotten into the world, he said, let all the angels of God worship him." (Heb. 1:6) When the angels saw that God, the Creator, took mud of the earth and modelled man in His own likeness and blew the breath of life into him, some of the angels proudly refused to worship such a man. Thus disregarding the order which they received from God they became evil ones.)

45 Q. What does the Bible say of them?
A. It says, "He maketh His angels spirits; His ministers a flaming fire." (Heb. 1:7, Psalm 104:4)

46. Q. Are there many angels.
A. Yes. There are many many angels.

47. Q. Has the Bible said anything about their number?
A. Yes. They are described as 'thousand thousands and ten thousand ten thousands.' (Dan. 7:10 etc.)

48. Q. Are there only so much?
A. No. Generally this is the usual expression in Bible to denote a great number.

49. Q. Into how many groups are these numberless hosts of heaven divided?
A. They are divided into nine groups.

50. Q. Can you give the names of all these nine groups?
A. Yes. (1) Chrowi (Cherubim), (2) Zraphae (Seraphim), (3) Mothuae (Thrones), (4) Hyli (Hosts), (5) Sulthani (Dominions), (6) Maravatha (Powers), (7) Arcos (Principalities), (8) Rabbai Malachi (Arch angel), (9) Malachi (Angel.)

51. Q. With what have these nine groups been identified by the Fathers of the Church?

A. They have been identified with the nine orders of priesthood of the true church (We may learn more of this in the 8th chapter).

52. Q. What do angels do?
A. They adore and serve God without ceasing.

53. Q. What do they do to men?
A. They help men and often let them know the will of God.

54. Q. If so, do they not belong to the servant class?
A. No. It is not so as we men understand "the servant class". But it is written of them "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth in the service for those who shall inherit life everlasting" (Heb. 1:14)

55. Q. In what all ways are they ministering spirits?
A. They are ministering spirits in various ways; but the most important of them are :—
1. They submit the prayers of saints before God. (Rev. 8: 3,4)
2. They escort (carry) the souls of dead believers to the paradise. (Luke 16: 22)
3. They will be reapers on the Judgement day. (Matt. 13: 39)

56. Q. Can you give the names of some people who were helped by angels?

A. Yes. I can say. Though our Lord Jesus Christ was full God and full man was helped at the time of trouble. (Matt. 4:11, Luke 22: 43)

57. Q. Anybody else?

A. Yes. Little children like ourselves are helped by angels. (Matt. 18: 10)

58. Q. Has any of the adult people received help from them?

A. Yes. Even Simon Peter. (Acts 12: 7)

59. Q. Can you mention the names of some people to whom the angels made known the will of God?

A. Yes. 1. Abraham (Gen. 12: 1, 2; 17: 2, 8; 22: 11, 12)
2. The mother of Samson. (Jud. 13: 3-5)
3. Zacharia, the father of John the Baptist. (Luke 1: 11-20)
4. The Blessed Virgin Mary. (Luke 1: 26-38)

60. Q. Why did God create you?

A. God created me that I may love Him for ever, to serve Him, to minister unto Him and to worship Him.

CHAPTER 4

ABOUT SON, THE SECOND PERSON OF HOLY TRINITY

61. Q. Who is the second person of the Holy Trinity?
A. The second person of the Holy Trinity is Son, the God.

62. Q. Is He known by this name only?
A. No. He is called by various names.

63. Q. Can you mention the important ones among them?
A. Yes. (1) The Son of God (2) The Son of Man (3) Lord (4) The Word of God (5) Messiah or Christ (6) Jesus (7) Emmanuel, meaning 'God with us' (8) the only Begotton Son of God.

64. Q. Why is He called the 'Son of God'?
A. He is called 'the Son of God' because He was born of the Father before the world and because He is the Very God from the Very God.

65. Q. Can you prove this from the Holy Scripts?
A. God the Father himself testifies that "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:17; Psal. 2: 7)

66. Q. Why is He called 'the Son of Man'?

A. He is called 'the Son of Man' because He assumed the complete nature of Man and became a true man.

67. Q. Is it just to call Him "the Lord"?

A. Yes. We are just, without a shadow of doubt. He is Almighty just like the Father and is the King of everything. (Acts 2: 34, 36; Matt. 22: 42-45; Ephe. 1: 20-22)

68. Q. We call Him "the Word of God." What does it prove?

A. Just as a man's words reveal his secret thoughts He reveals to us the deep thoughts of the Father. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only Begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him" and such other things are written about Him. (John 1:1,2,18; Heb. 1:13)

69. Q. How did He do this?

A. He did this in secret by the creation of the world and in the Church of Jews by Prophecies, but in these last days face to face to us by His incarnation. (Heb. 1: 1, 2)

70. Q What is the meaning of the word 'Messiah' or 'Christ'?

A. That means 'the One Anointed.'

71. Q. Why is He called thus?

A. He is so called because He was anoint. ed by the Holy Spirit to be our prophet, priest and king. It is written about Him ".....God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Psl. 45:7; Acts 10: 38)

72. Q. How do you know that this is about Messiah?

A. I know this since because our Lord Jesus Christ has Himself admitted this (Luke 4: 18,21,22)

73. Q. Why is he called 'Eshoo' or 'Jesus'?

A. It was the order of God the Lord. (Luke 1: 31, Matt. 1: 21). Besides, just as Joshua (Eshoo Bar Noon) saved the Israelites and made them inherit Cannan, He also saved us from our sins and admits us to heaven.

74. Q. Is He not called 'Emmanuel' meaning 'God with us'?

A. Yes. He is called Emmanuel.

75. Q. Why is He called by this name?

A. Since because He truly took our human nature. (Phili. 2: 6,9; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23)

76. Q. What is the reason for calling Him 'the Only Begotten Son of God'?

A. The Father has not begotten another son. It is written ".....God so loved the world that He gave 'His only Begotten Son' that whoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

77. Q. But did you not once assert that we too are the sons of God the Father?

A. But it is in another way. Our Lord is of one nature with His Father and we are sons only by adoption.

78. Q. How could you prove this?

A. Christ has never said to His disciples "Our Father", but has always used the terms 'My Father' and 'Your Father'. (John 20:17)

79. Q How is our Lord designated in "The Nicean Creed?"

A. He is therein called the 'Very God of Very God.'

80. Q. What is the meaning of 'Very God of Very God'?

A. That means true God in all, infinitely born of the Father, equal to Father and Holy Ghost and at no time an incomplete God.

81. Q Can you prove this from Scriptures?

A. Yes. Christ has said "I and my Father are one in accord" (John 10:30), "My Father is in Me and I in Him" (John 10:38) and "He who sees Me has seen the Father." (John 14:9)

82. Q. Has there been a time when there was no Son?

A. No. Never. The son is everlasting (infinite) just like the Father and Holy Ghost.

83. Q. How do you know this?

A. It is written as His Holy words that "I am Aleph and Tau, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last" (Rev. 22: 13), and that "I am Alpha and Omega (Aleph and Tau), the beginning and the ending says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Rev. 1: 8). Besides these, it is recorded about Him that, "In the beginning was the Word" and the like. (John 1: 1-5)

84. Q. Is Christ (Messiah) Almighty?

A. Yes. Christ is Almighty (1 Cor. 8:6) for He is God and not like other people, but in His own strength He worked miracles.

85. Q. Is the Son also the Creator?

A. Yes. It is written about Him "Everything came to be by His hand; and without Him not even one thing came to be of what was created." (John 1:3)

CHAPTER 5.

ABOUT THE INCARNATION OF GOD, THE WORD

(God the word's Assumption of Human Nature)

86. Q. Who is God, the Word?
A. He is God, the Son, who is the second Person of the Holy Trinity.

87. Q. What did the Son, who is the God, do for us in these last days?
A. He became a true man like us and was conceived and born of the Holy Virgin Mary.

88. Q. What is the meaning of the word 'Incarnation' (Assumption of Human Nature)?
A. 'Incarnation' means that son, the God, the second person of Holy Trinity, took to Himself the very body and the very soul of man i. e., took to Himself the complete nature of man and became a true man.

89. Q. Did He exist before He became man?
A. Yes. Even before the world, everlastingly, He was with the Father and the Holy Ghost by complete divine nature.

90. Q. Why did Word, the God, become man?
A. It is confessed in the Creed that 'for we men and our salvation' and written in the Holy Script 'to save His people from their sins.' (Matt. 1:21)

91. Q. Was He not Almighty?
A. He is for ever and everlastingly Almighty.

92. Q. If so, why did He need to do this in a frail human nature?
A. It is written about this that '..... by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin' and that 'for as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.' (Rom. 5:12-19), again, 'both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one.' (Heb. 2:11; 5:18) and the like.

93. Q. What does Scripture say about the Incarnation of Word, the God?
A. The Scripture says that the Son, the God, who was for ever and ever with Father and the Holy Ghost assumed true human nature and was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary.

94. Q. Did Word, the God, by His incarnation take the very body and the very soul of man?
A. Yes. Just like one among us He took the very human body and the true soul and in His human nature enjoyed and endured pleasures and adversities respectively as we do.

95. Q. If so, did He become one just like us?
A. Yes. Except in sins, He became a real man just like ourselves.

96. Q. Thus did God and man become one?
A. Yes. That person is called 'the Only Son', 'the Only Messiah', 'Jesus (Eshoo)' and the like.

97. Q. What do you understand by the name 'Messiah (Christ)'?
A. I understand that Word, the God and the true humanity assumed by Him is the self same person.

98. Q. How many natures do you admit in Jesus Christ?
A. I confess that there are two natures in Christ; the one divine and the other human.

99. Q. Is not God infinite and immortal?
A. Yes. That is quite true.

100. Q. Then how is this?
A. Mar Bavai, one of the greatest Fathers of the Church, says in his famous "Breekh Hannana" * that 'He, in His Godhead, before all times, was born infinitely from His Father, and in His manhood, in the fulness of time by a united body, (was born) from Virgin Mary. His Godhead is not of the nature of His Mother, His humanity is not from the nature of His Father."

* (A syriac hymn used on all Sundays from the first Sunday of Soobara till Dinha.)

101. Q. If so, are there two Messiahs — one divine and the other human?
A. No. Never it is so. Messiah is only one. "Messiah, the Son of God, who is worshiped by all in two natures is only one" (Breekh Hannana), He who was with the Father and the Holy Spirit everlastingly; the only Son who became man by taking human nature, the only Messiah, was always one.

102. Q. Cite an example to prove this?
A. As the body and soul together is only one man, so God and man united in one Messiah, who is the Son.

103. Q. How was this Messiah born?
A. Blessed Virgin Mary, by the order of God, concieved of the Holy Spirit, and after nine months, the period of concievement, brought forth Messiah, the Son of God and David. (Luke 1: 26-38; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7; Matt. 2:1-15 etc.)

104. Q. Can we, therefore, designate Mary 'Mother of God' or 'Theotokos'?
A. No. It is not at all just and proper.

105. Q. Why is it not just to call her so?
A. Since she has not brought forth God, who is the Spirit.

106 Q. Then whom did she bring forth?
A. She brought forth only Messiah, who was at once both true God and true man.

107. Q. Was the 'Ever Virgin Mary' from true mankind?

A. Yes. She was truly a woman. She too was born of man and woman just as we are born of man and woman. We sing in the anthem "Min Beeth Davidh" * that "the Creator selected the Virgin from the house of David and Abraham and accomodated His mysterious power in her. She, by the power of Holy Ghost, concieved and gave birth to Messiah, the Judge of the Height and the Depth."

108 Q. Is there anybody who worships her since because she gave birth to the Son of God?

A. There is a church which worships her. They adore and serve her as if she is a Goddess.

109. Q. Why did Word, the God, incarnate?

A. As I have answered on a former occasion (vide question 90) it is written in the Holy Script, "to save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1: 21) and we confess in the Creed "for us men and our salvation."

110. Q. Is this salvation necessary for all men?

A. Yes. It is necessary for all men.

* (An anthem sung during the Evening Prayer (Ramsah) on all alternate Wednesdays.)

111. Q. Is Virgin Mary also included in this salvation?

A. There is no doubt that she too is subject to this salvation since because she too was born from flesh and blood just like all other People. She too has admitted this truth. (Luke 1:46-48)

112. Q. What deserving designations have the Holy Fathers and the Church given to the Ever Virgin Mary?

A. They call her 'The Ever Virgin', 'The Second Heaven', 'The Arc of Light', 'The Mother of Light and Life' and the like.

113. Q. Was man pure when he was created?

A. Yes. All the creations of God were good at first.

114. Q. Then how is it that man fell into sin?

A. God did not compel Adam and Eve to remain in their purity. He left them free to select either good or bad for themselves. Satan, by his tricks, deceived them to select evil and to stand against God as he himself had once done. (Gen. 3:1-5)

115. Q. What did Adam and Eve do by obeying satan?

A. They committed sin. Because of this all mankind became sinners.

116. Q. What is the punishment of sin?

A It is death We should all undergo the bodily (worldly) death; but if without a remission of our sins, we shall have to endure the eternal death; for it is written "..... The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord." (Rom. 6: 23)

117. Q. How can you escape the eternal death?
A. Jesus Christ will save us from this if we repent of our sins. It was for this purpose He became man and gave up His life on the cross.

118. Q. What did Christ do on this earth?
A. In this world Christ preached the Gospel, worked miracles and built the Church.

119. Q. What did Christ do to save us ?
A. It is written that ".....He bore all our sins, and lifted them with His body on the cross, that we being dead to sin, should live through His righteousness." (1 Peter 2:24)

120. Q. Could this have been done by an ordinary man?
A. No. None but Messiah, who was complete God and complete man, could atone for the sins of man before God.

121. Q. Was it only for the remission of our sins the Word, the God, became man?

A. No. But He became man that we may even become Holy again as Adam and Eve were at first.

122. Q. Can men be completely Holy?

A. It is not possible in this world since because all of us are sinners. But, by the grace the Messiah grants us, we can become holy in a greater degree and after this world can become complete and in His likeness.

123. Q. Can you cite any scriptural verse about it?

A. Yes. It is written "My beloved, now we are the sons of God, and as yet it has not been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be in His likeness; for we shall see Him as He is." (1 John 3:2; Rom. 8:29) and such other verses.

124. Q. Can you prove from the Bible that Messiah is a true man?

A. Yes. Our Lord Jesus was a child just like any one of us. "Jesus increased in His wisdom and His stature." (Luke 2:52); "He fasted and hungered." (Matt. 4:2); "He was wearied" as we are wearied and 'was sorry' as we are sorry (John 4:6; Matt. 26:38); He rejoiced (Luke 10:21); He thirsted on the cross (John 19:28)

He was buried and was risen as we will rise (Mark 15: 46; 16: 9). From these and others, it is quite evident that Christ had, just like us, a true human body and a true human soul.

125. Q. Why should Christ be both God and man at once?

A. He who was at once both God and man alone can be able to be a mediator between God and man and an atonement for our sins.

126. Q. Is salvation possible by other men or can others save us ?

A. No. Let it be known to all that there is no salvation by any other but by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is said "There is no salvation by any other man for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:10, 12) and that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of those in heaven, of those on earth and those under the earth.', (Phili. 2:10)

127. Q. What do you learn from the duel nature of Christ?

A. First we learn that He is our predecessor as He is man and that He showed that even man can vanquish Satan.

Secondly we learn that He being God will grant us grace to defeat Satan again and that He himself is able to save us and will save us.

128. Q. Was our Lord Jesus without the slightest tinge of sin or completely spotless?
A. Yes. "He did not sin, neither was guile found in His mouth." (1 Peter 2:22)

129. Q. Was our Lord tempted like us?
A. Yes. "He was, in all points, tempted like as we are and yet without sins." (Heb. 4:15)

130. Q. Mention an occasion when our Lord was tempted?
A. When satan came to Him while in the desert. (Matt. 4: 1-11)

131. Q. Has our Lord been tempted at any other time ?
A. Yes. All His life time when in this world He was tempted. He says to His disciples "Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations" (Compare verses Luke 22:28; 4:13 etc.)

132. Q. Has our Lord been defeated in His temptations?
A. No. Never has He failed in his temptations; but has set us an example to overcome our trials.

133. Q. What benefit do we derive from His temptations ?

A. "For in that He himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted." (Heb. 2:18)

134. Q. Did our Lord submitted Himself to death of His own free will?

A. Yes. Just as Issac submitted himself, as desired by his father, to be a burnt offering, our Lord too gave Himself to death of His own free will. (Gen 22:2-9); Psa. 40:6, 7)

135. Q. Was it possible for Christ to escape death if He had a desire to do so?

A. Yes. He said to Simon Peter "Do you think that I cannot ask of My father and He will now raise up for me more than twelve legions of Angels?" (Matt. 26:53; John 10:17,18)

136. Q. What is the meaning of the word 'death'?

A. Its meaning is "the separation of the body and soul from each other."

137. Q. Did our Lord Jesus truly die?

A. He died in His manhood; because His body and soul were separated from each other. But neither did His Godhead leave His soul when in Sheol, nor His humanity, as it could not see corruption, leave from His body when within the tomb. (Psa. 16:10; Acts 2:27)

138. Q How did our Lord die?
A. We confess in the Creed that "He suffered and was crucified in the days of Pontius Pilate."

139 Q. Why did He die?
A. He died on our behalf to save us from our sins.

140. Q. Why was He 'nailed to the tree' (crucified)?
A. Because it was the most cursed of all deaths. It is written of Him "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, by becoming accursed for our sakes; for it is written 'cursed is everyone who hangs on a cross.' (Gal. 3:13; Deut. 21:23)

141. Q. What did Christ do on the cross?
A. He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sakes.

142. Q. Is cross a cursed thing now?
A. No. It is now an honourable one since Christ took off its curse. Therefore, as the sign of our salvation, we take pride in the cross and venerate it. Even St. Paul, the Apostle, prides "but as for me, I have nothing on which to boast except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I crucified unto the world." (Gal. 6:14)

143. Q. Can you state some miraculous signs, which took place at the death of Jesus Christ?

A. Our Lord "Jesus cried with a loud voice and the end came" (Mark 15:37); "From the sixth hour, there was darkness over the land until the nineth hour." (Matt. 27:45); "immediately the door curtains of the temple were rent in two from the top to the bottom"; "The earth quaked and the rocks split and the tombs were opened" and the bodies of a great many saints who were sleeping in death rose up and they went out and after His resurrection, they entered into the Holy City and appeared to a great many" and many such other instances. (Matt. 27:45, 50-55)

144. Q. What do these signs signify?

A. These signify that Jesus Christ, even while dying on the cross, in His humanity, was true God.

145. Q. How long did the body of our Lord stay in the tomb?

A. It remained in the tomb for three days only.

146. Q. What did Christ do these three days?

A He descended to Sheol and preached to the souls of the dead. (1 Peter 3:19)

147. Q. What is Sheol?
A. Sheol is the place where all the souls of the departed ones await resurrection.

CHAPTER 6.

ABOUT THE RESURRECTION, ASCENSION AND SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

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148. Q. When did our Lord resurrect from the dead?
A. He resurrected the third day after the crucifiction.
149. Q. What is the meaning of the word "Resurrection"?
A. That means that our Lord reunited His body and soul together.
150. Q. Which body and soul did He reunite?
A. He reunited the body and soul He had before his death.
151. Q. Can you prove that He had the same body and soul even after His resurrection?
A. Yes. He showed His pierced hands, legs and sides to St. Thomas, the Apostle and others. (John 20:20, 27, 30)
152. Q. Had there been any change in His body after the resurrection?

A. Yes. His body had a great glory; His disciples did not recognise Him (John 21:4, 12); Jesus entered inside the room where they sat, while even the doors were locked (John 20:19, 16) and such other incidents are recorded. Even our bodies too will be glorious in the resurrection if we live in accordance with Christ's Commandments.

153. Q. But, even before His death, has He not walked on the sea, and transfigured on the mount? Has He not then worked various miracles?

A. Those incidents were only the signs of the glory which He had in Himself always. This glory was hidden before resurrection; but we see it clearly now.

154. Q. How many days did Christ live on earth after His resurrection?

A. He lived on the earth for 40 days after His resurrection i. e., till He ascended to heaven.

155. Q. What did He do these forty days?

A. He taught His disciples to build the Church. "..... after He had suffered, with many wonders during the forty days, while appearing to them and talking with them concerning the Kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3) It is so written about this.

156. Q. What is the meaning of the word "Ascended" used in the Creed?

A. That means that Christ entered into heaven with His soul and body.

157. Q. Now where is our Lord?

A. He now sits at the right hand side of the Father. (Mark 16:19; Heb. 8:1; Psal. 110:1)

158. Q. What is the meaning of the expression of "the Right Hand of Father"?

A. That means "the place of highest glory and authority." (Ephe. 1: 20-22; Phil. 2:9, 10)

159. Q. Why did our Lord ascend to heaven?

A. There are 5 reasons for doing so :—

1. Just to recieve in His Humanity too, the glory He had with His Father in His Godhead, even before the world was made. It is written, "So now Oh! My Farher, glorify Me with You with the same glory which I had with You before the world was made." (John 17:5)
2. To send the Holy Ghost. For Christ has said ".....If I do not go away, the Comfortor will not come to you, but if I should go I will send Him to You." (John 16:7)

3. Just to bring everything into order for the completion of His Church. About this it is stated ".....has put all things under His feet and made Him who is above all things the Head of the Church." (Ephe. 1:20-23)
4. To prepare a place for us. Jesus Himself has said "In my Father's house there are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and take you to me; so that where I am you may also be." (John 14:2, 3)
5. To be our High Priest in Heaven. The Scripture says "We have therefore a great High Priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus Christ, the Son of God; let us remain firm in His faith" (Heb. 4:14)

160. Q. Did Christ refrain from His priestly duties after the fulfilment of His sacrifice on the cross?

A. No. He is a priest for ever after the order of Malchizdeck. (Psl. 110: 4, compare what St. Paul, the Apostle says in Heb. 7:15, 21-24)

161. Q. Has our Lord no authority in Church since He has ascended into heaven?

A. Yes. We read in the Holy Bible, "Thy Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." (Psa. 145:13): "The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and Holy in all His works." (Psa. 145:17, verse 13 as is seen in Syriac Version of Psalms) and "The Lord hath sworn and will not repent. Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Malchizdeck." (Psa. 110:4; Heb. 7:15, 21, 24)

162. Q. Right. But what do you assert by this ?

A. I assert by this that our Lord Jesus Christ who is both God and man and our Saviour and the Great High Priest lives for ever and governs unceasingly,

163. Q. Do not some people who worship the idols and serve the goddess give these authorities to a sinful man now ?

A. Yes. They give all these authorities to a "man of sins" now. But they go astray from truth; because, they could not have said or done so if they had believed that our High Priest lives with life for ever and ever.

164. Q. How does He become our High Priest ?

A. It is written about this that, "..... He did not enter with the blood, of goats and calves, but by His own blood, He entered in once into the Holy place, and

obtained for us everlasting redemption" (Heb 9:12) and that ".....but this man because He is immortal has a priesthood which remains for ever. Therefore He is able forever to save those who come to God by Him, because forever He lives to make intercession for them." (Heb. 7:24, 25)

165. Q. If this is so, who are then the priests of the church of God such as the Patriarch and his subordinates?

A. The Scripture describes them as "the servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1) and "Ministers through whom you are converted" (1 cor. 3:5) etc.

166. Q. If Jesus Christ interceeds for us with His Father is He not of a lesser status than the Father?

A. No. As He, too, is God He speaks as if one talks with his fellow man. Compare the prophecies of Zecharia in connection with the passions of our Saviour. (Zach. 13:7)

167. Q. When will Jesus come to this world again?

A. He will come on the last day to judge the nations. (Psa. 67:4)

168. Q. Will all men be judged?

A. Yes. On the last day all that are living and the dead will be judged; so we confess in the Creed.

169. Q. How will the dead be judged?

A. St. Paul, the Divine Treasurer says, "Behold I tell you a mystery; we shall not all die, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Cor. 15:51-54)

170. Q. What for will we be judged?

A. We will be judged for all the good or evil we have done in this world. "For we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may be rewarded according to that which he has done with his body, whether it be good or bad." (2 Cor. 5: 10) Compare this with what the Eccliciastes says in his 12th Chapter 14th verse.

171. Q. How will Jesus come to judge us?

A. He comes with the same body He had in this world (Acts 1:11) but with greater authority and glory. Jesus Himself has said "When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all His Holy Angels with Him, then He will sit upon the throne of His glory." (Matt. 25: 31)

172. Q. Does man know when will the day of judgment be?

A. No. Nobody knows the exact time. Jesus will come at a time when His coming is the least expected; just like a thief at night. For we read in the scriptures "for you yourselves know perfectly well that the day of our Lord comes just like a thief in the night." (1 Thess. 5:2; Rev. 1:3)

173. Q. What should we study from this?

A. We ought to learn from this that we should ever be wakeful as we do not know when the house-owner comes. (Mark 13:35)

174. Q. What will our Lord do then to those who have done good?

A. He will make them stand at His right hand and say "come ye blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom which had been prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34)

175 Q. What will He do to those who have done evil?

A. They will be shifted to His left side and He will say to them, "Go away from Me, you accursed to the everlasting fire that which is prepared for the adversary and his angels." (Matt. 25:41)

176. Q. What do we learn from this?
A. We learn from this that we should immediately turn from our sins and repent and that we must be careful to the highest degree to spend in the new life during our life time.

CHAPTER 7.

ABOUT HOLY GHOST, THE THIRD PERSON OF HOLY TRINITY

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177. Q. Who is the third person of Holy Trinity?
A. The third person of Holy Trinity is, "Rukha D' Kudsha."
178. Q. What does "Rukha D' Kudsha" mean?
A. That means the Holy Ghost.
179. Q. Tell another name of Holy Ghost?
A. "Parakleetha" (Comfortor.)
180. Q. To what language does that word belong?
A. The word "Parakleetha" belongs to the Greek tongue. That means "Comfortor" and "Mediator."
181. Q. Is Holy Ghost equal to God, the Father, and God, the Son?
A. Yes. Father, Son and Holy Ghost are all equal.

182. Q. Can you prove from the Scriptures that Holy Ghost is true God?

A. Yes. (1) We are baptized in the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost. (Matt: 28:19)

(2) Simon Keppa (Simon Peter) testifies that the decietful Ananias lied not to men but to God. (Acts 5:3-4)

(3) Christians are called "the temple of God" in one place (2 Cor. 6:16) and "the abode of Holy Spirit" in another place. (1 Cor. 6:19)

183. Q. Is the Holy Spirit (Ghost) without a beginning and an end?

A. All the three persons of the Holy Trinity are without beginning and end. It is written ".....Who through the Eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish...." (Heb. 9:14)

184. Q. From whom does the Holy Spirit proceed?

A. He proceeds only from the Father.

185. Q. Show this from the Book of Holy Ghost?

A. (1) Christ Himself says "the Spirit of Truth which proceeds from My Father." (John 15:26)

(2) The Holy Ghost is almost always designated as "The Spirit of the Father." (Gen. 1: 2; Rom. 8: 11; Acts 2:17; Gen. 2:7; Job 33:4 etc.)

186. Q. Can we call the Holy Spirit "the Spirit of Jesus"?

A. Yes. We may call Him so. There is no harm in it. Because the Holy Trinity is only one God. Besides, it is written "The Spirit of Christ which dwelt in them...." (Rom. 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11)

187. Q. Is the Holy Spirit Almighty?

A. All the three persons of the Trinity are Almighties in everything. In addition to this, it is written about Him that, "..... the Spirit searches everything even the depths of God." (1 Cor. 2:10, 11)

188. Q. What was the role of Holy Spirit in the creation of the world?

A. He "lived on the face of the waters" to create living creatures as the reptiles and birds etc. (Gen. 1:20, 21)

189. Q. What was His roll in the creation of mankind?

A. He breathed into the nostrils of man the breath of life. (Gen. 2:7; Job 33:4)

190. Q. What name did Holy Ghost get by this deed?

A. Because of this deed He was called "the Spirit of Life." (Rom. 8:2)

191. Q. When was Holy Ghost sent to this world by our Lord?
A. On the day of 'Pentecost' when He descended on the Apostles.
192. Q. What does He do to us now?
A. He lives in the Church, purifies the Holy Mysteries of Baptism, Kurbhana and the like; He abides in the Christians now and sanctifies and comforts them. (John 14:17, 16:6-14; 1 Cor. 6:19)
193. Q. Has not the Holy Ghost descended on other people before the day of Pentecost?
A. Yes; but it was not of this fashion. Now we have the overflow of the HolyGhost. We read in the Scriptures that "He said this concerning the Spirit which they who believe in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not given because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:39)
194. Q. What does the Spirit do in "the Holy Imposition of Hands"?
A. It sanctifies many to become deacons, priests and bishops in the Church of God. (Matt. 28: 18; Luke 24:50; John 20:21-23; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 13:2 etc.)
195. Q. What else does He do for us?
A. He sanctifies all mysteries that they may become weapons of Grace to us.
196. Q. What does He do in Baptism?

A. He sanctifies the water for the redemption of all our sins. (John 3:5, 1 Cor. 12:13)

197. Q. What part does He take in the Holy Kurbhana?

A. He sanctifies the bread and the wine to become the flesh and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

198. Q. What other name did our Lord Give to the Holy Spirit?

A. "The finger of God." (Luke 11: 20; Matt. 12:28)

199. Q. What does this name suggest?

A. We understand from this name that just as we work with our fingers, so also God works through the Holy Ghost.

200. Q. What did Holy Ghost do to those who wrote Scriptures?

A. He inspired them to write the truth. (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Thim. 3:16)

201. Q. Because of this function of the Holy Ghost what name did He get?

A. Because of this, Jesus Christ, the Son, designated Him as "the Spirit of Truth." (John 15:26)

202. Q. What do you confess about Holy Spirit in the Creed?

A. I daily recite that "I believe in one Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, who proceedeth from the Father, the life giving Spirit."

CHAPTER 8
ABOUT THE HOLY CHURCH

203. Q. What does 'Church' mean?

A. 'Church' means the congregation which Christ built on earth by Holy Spirit.

204. Q. What are the qualities of church as confessed by the Creed?

A. It is described in the Creed as 'Catholic', 'Apostolic', 'Holy' and the 'Only One.'

205. Q. What does the term 'Catholic' mean?

A. 'Catholic' means 'General' or 'Universal.'

206. Q. Why is the church called 'Catholic'?

A. The Jews accepted people of their own nationality alone as the members of their synagogue. But, unlike this, Christ accepted people of all nations into His Fold. (Matt. 28:20) Hence it is called the Catholic.

207. Q. When did God made the covenant that the Church of Jesus Christ will be spread throughout the whole world ?

A. It was when God said to Abraham "In your (i. e. Christ's) seed the whole nations of the world will be blessed." (Gen. 22:18; Gala. 3:16)

208. Q. Why is the Church called 'Apostolic'?

A. 'Jesus Christ Himself being the Corner Stone of the building' the Church is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets. (Eph. 2:20)

209. Q. Can Simon Peter or anybody else be the "foundation" or the "foundation stone" or "the Chief Corner Stone" of the Church?

A. No. If my reply is not convincing, hear: Those who say so or behave are the begotted enemies of God and truth; for St. Paul, the Apostle, the Master Builder of the Church of God asserts that "According to the grace of God which is given to me, as a wise master-builder, I have laid the foundation .....for other foundation can no man lay than which is already laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 3:9-11)

210. Q. Why is the Church called Holy?

A. The Church is called Holy, because all her members are sanctified by Holy Baptism and Holy Ghost lives in them. It is written in the Bible, ".....Even as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water and by the word, in order to build for Himself a glorious Church without stain or wringle or any such thing, but that it should be Holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5: 25-27)

211. Q. To whom are the names of 'Holy Ones' or 'Saints' given in the New Testament?
A. It is given to all Christians. (Acts. 9:13, 1 Cor. 1:2)

212 Q. Why is the church called the'Only One'?
A. Because it is said that "there is 'One Lord', 'One Faith', and 'One Baptism'; one God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in all of us." (Eph. 4:5, 6)

213. Q. Did Jesus Christ build only'one Church', or 'many churches' in this world'?
A. Jesus built only one church. His desire and aim were that she should not be split at any time. Jesus, our Lord, in His Holy prayer says "So that they may all be one, just as you My Father art with Me, and I am with you, that they also may be one with Us; so that the world may believe You sent Me." (John 17:20, 21) Moreover St. Paul says "That you may become one body, and one spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling." (Eph. 4: 4) But, though such advises are given, woe to the sin, pride and mischief of mankind, this single body is now rent in pieces.

214. Q. Then which is the 'True and Only One Church'?

A. Our Holy, ancient and catholic church of the East, which never tried to deteriorate. increase or change the teachings or beliefs of the Holy Scriptures; which has not taken part in any false Synods to rent and tear this only one body and which even now strictly adheres to the belief, dogmas and Holy Mysteries, which we have learned from Apostles, Holy Synods and Patriarchs of Truth, is that Church.

215. Q. Are there no more Christians other than us who now live in this world?

A. All those who have died in Jesus live for Him (Luke 20:38) because a worldly death cannot separate the members of Christ.

216. Q. Have we any communion with those who are dead in Christ?

A. Yes. We are all the members of the body of Christ. We too are united together by prayer and worship just as He is one. Because "none of us lives unto himself, and none of us dies to himself. For whether we live, we live unto our Lord and whether we die, we die unto our Lord. Whether we live therefore, or die, we belong to our Lord." (Rom. 14:7,8) Besides, it is written

about this that "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, then are we of all men most miserable" (1 Cor. 15:19) "and also then those who have died in Christ have perished." (1 Cor. 15:18)

217. Q. What truth do we learn from this?
A. We learn from this that all the Saints who have departed from this world pray for us (Rev. 5:8; 8:3, 4) and that we too may pray for the dead also. (2 Thim. 1:18)

218. Q. Why do you need the prayers of saints?
A. We need it because St. James says "The effectual fervant prayer of a righteous man is powerful. (James 5:16)

219. Q. If we do so, does it not destroy or weaken the mediatorship of our Lord Jesus?
A. It does not; because if the living requires prayers of or pray for one another, they do the same thing. But scriptures allow this. (James 5: 16; Rom. 1: 9; 15: 30, 31; Eph. 6:18, 19; Heb. 13:18,19 etc.)

220. Q. What benefit is there if we pray for the dead?
A. If the prayer for the dead would not be effective, St. Paul the Apostle would not have prayed for his dead friend. (2 Thim. 1: 16-18) This friend was, no

doubt, dead. If he was not dead why doesn't He salute this friend also. (2 Thim 4:19)

221. Q. By what all other names are the church of God known?

A. "The Body of Christ" (Eph. 5: 30), "Christ's Bride"(Rev.21:2; Eph. 5: 23-25), "The House of God" and "The Pillar and Foundation of Truth " (1 Thim. 3:15) "The Kingdom of God"or"The Kingdom of Heaven." (John 3:5 etc)

222. Q. To what has Christ symbolised the church ?

A. Christ has symbolised the church to "a field wherein a sower sows his seed" "A field where there was wheat and weed", "the leven which levened three bushels of flour", "a valuable pearl", "a vineyard with servants","the ten virgins who went to welcome their bride-groom" and "a net cast in the sea" etc.

223. Q. When did you become the member of the church?

A. When I received Baptism. "For all of us are baptized by one spirit into one body." (1 Cor. 12:13)

224. Q. Name the shepherds who are extremely necessary in the church ?

A. They are Bishops (Episcopas), Priests (Kasseshi) and Deacons (Shammashas)

225. Q. Can you give the names of some ancient Bishops?
A. Yes. The twelve Apostles, St. Paul, Mar Barnabas and Mar Titus are the ancient Bishops.
226. Q. Name some of the first Priests (Elders)?
A. St. Paul salutes some of the priests of the church of Ephesus. (Acts 20:17)
227. Q. Name some of the ancient deacons?
A. Mar Stephen, the first martyor, and Mar Philipose the deacon. (Acts 6:5)
228. Q. How did Christ grant His disciples authority?
A. "Then Jesus said unto them again "Peace be with you; just as My Father has sent Me so I send you. And when He had said these things He gave them courage and said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:21,22)
229. Q. What more did He say in addition to and along with these?
A. "If you forgive a man his sins, they shall be forgiven to him and if you hold a man's sins they are held." (John 20:23)
230. Q. What Authority did He give them this time?
A. He gave them the authority of absolving sins.
231. Q. What need is there for the Holy Imposition of hands?

A. The Holy Ghost will not come but with the Apostolic Holy Imposition of hands. (1 Thim 4:14; 2 Thim. 1:6; Acts 8:17, 18; 13:2-4; 19:6 etc) As such, if there is no Apostolic Imposition of hands there will be no church, no truth and no salvation.

232. Q. What do you think of those who deny, reject or take undeservedly "the Holy Imposition of hands"?

A. I consider them as those who have gone astray from truth; and not only this: They are, no doubt, not included in the Church of Christ.

233. Q. By what other name is the Holy Ghost; which is received by the Apostolic Imposition of hands known?

A. It is called the "Gift", ".....and has poured out gifts which you now see and hear." (Compare Acts 2:33, 2:38; 8:15-20; 1 Thim. 4:14; 2 Thim. 1:6)

234. Q. Did the Holy Apostles use the Imposition of hands?

A. Yes. They never considered it insignificant; but used it as an important and more necessary one. (Acts 6:6; 8:15-19; 13: 3; 1 Thim. 4: 14) Besides, St. Paul hints at the laying on of hands "in a great and special manner." (Heb. 6:1,2)

235. Q. What is the true church of this world a semblance of and equal to?

A. It is a semblance of and equal to the Church of the heavenly host. "You established the Holy Church in this world as a semblance of that which is in heaven" so says Mar Gheevarghese, the Metropolitan of 'Nicevan' in one of his 'Praises'. (Compare Heb. 8:5)

236. Q. Who are the servants of that Heavenly church and whom do they worship?

A. They are angels who worship God everlastingly and who help men and often let them know the will of God. (See Ch. 3)

237. Q. Who are servers in this wordly church and whom do they adore and serve?

A. Here, in this world, they are the groups of the clergy who worship God and please Him by the ministeration of His Holy Mysteries and who preach to men, thereby helping them.

238. Q. How many are the groups of these clergymen?

A. There are nine groups, just like the nine groups of the angels.

239. Q. Who are they?

A. Those who have received authority or status by the Apostolic and Holy Imposition of hands.

240. Q. How are they designated?
A. They are designated as Deacons, Priests and Bishops.

241. Q. Can these three groups be divided?
A. Yes. Each one of the groups may again be divided into three. Thus, they become nine groups in all, like that of the nine groups of the Angels.

242. Q. What is said about these in the Synods of the Holy Ancient Fathers of our Church?
A. It is stated about this that our Lord Jesus Christ did all these when in this world in His Incarnation.

243. Q. What is the first group and its divisions?
A. The status of the Deacon. Its subdivisions are: (1) Karoya (Reader), (2) Hivpadyakna (Hypodeacon) and (3) Shammasha (Deacon.)

244. Q. What are the services of the status of Karoya?
A. It is just to read the books as the Old Testament and the Acts of the Apostles before the congregation.

245. Q. When did Jesus fulfill the status of Karoya?
A. He served as a Karoya when He read the Book of the Prophet Isaiah in the Church of Nazreth where He was brought up. (Luke 4: 16, 17)

246. Q. What are the duties of a Hivpadyakna?
A. The work of a Hivpadyakna is to sweep and clean the abode of God thereby decorating it, to keep the doors and to light the lamps.

247. Q. When was it our Lord did the services of a Hivpadyakna?
A. It was when He "made a whip of the cord" and drove away the beasts, merchants and those who sold the doves from the Church. (John 2:12-17)

248. Q. What are the authorities and services of a Shammasha?
A. To wear the stole (Oorara) and tie the girdle (Soonara), to preach, to say publically the prayer "Let us all stand up....." (Nkoom Sappir), to announce the well known orders "Raise your voice and....." (Areem Kalkon) and the like; to read the Epistles, to help the priest in all his services and in the life giving mysteries to administer the cup of life to those who receive Holy Communion and such others are the duties of a Shammasha.

249. Q. When did Jesus serve as a Shammasha?
A. When Jesus began to preach from that day forward: "Repent; for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." (Matt. 4:17)

250. Q. Which is the group above the status of Shammasha?

A. It is the second group, i e., the status of a Kaseesha (Priest). In this too, there are three important sub-divisions.

251. Q. What are the names of these three sub-divisions?

A. (1) An ordinary Kaseesha (Priest), (2) Piryadhotha (Cor-episcopa) and (3) the Archidhyakkon (Archdeacon).

252. Q. What are the authorities and services of an ordinary Priest?

A. An ordinary priest may administer the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Kurbhana (Mass), may read the Gospel, solemnize the marriage, bury the dead, pray over the sick, laying his hands on them, for their recovery and do all other Holy services for the believers. He may interdict the transgressors, absolve the sinners if repented and do such other services. But, he is to govern his parish subject to the orders of his Bishop.

253. Q. How did Jesus do the services of a priest ?

A. When, in the spring of Aenon near to Salim, John was baptizing, Christ too was baptizing in the land of Judaea

(John 3: 22, 23). In the passover Mansion Jesus blessed bread and wine and transformed them to the Holy Kurbhana (Mass) (Matt. 26:26-28). He laid His hand on the woman afflicted of rheumatism for eighteen years and healed her (Luke 13: 11-13). When Jesus did these and such other services He was fulfilling the duties of a priest.

254. Q. What are the works of a Piryadhotha?

A. A Piryadhotha was once called Corepiscopa. He may do all the services that the priest does. In addition to these he may visit the villages as the representative of his bishop and preach to them. He could also direct and send priests to other places where necessary.

255. Q. When did Jesus serve as a Piryadhotha?

A. When Jesus said "I must preach the Kingdom of God in other countries also" (Luke 4: 43, 44; Matt. 9:35; Mark 6: 6) and did accordingly and when He charged His twelve disciples and the other seventy saying "Above all go to the sheep which are lost from the house of Israel" (Matt. 10: 5, 6; Mark 6: 7; Luke 9: 1, 2).

256. Q. What are the services of an Archdeacon?

A. Archdeacon means "the authority of services." Therefore, it is his duty to see that services are arranged and conducted properly, especially that of the cathedral church of his Bishop.

257. Q. When did Christ do this great responsibility?

A. When executing the responsibilities of a Piryadhotha He warned those whom He sent to "keep away from pagan practices", forbade them to "enter the Samaritan city" and taught them not to accumulate gold, silver or brass", dresses and shoes and to cast away from them everything, an abundance of which proved detrimental or an obstacle to the spiritual race of the Gospel. While He was thus arranging their Gospel mission He was acting as an Archdeacon (Matt. 10: 5-13; Mark 6:8-10; Luke 9: 3, 4 and 10: 3-8).

258. Q. How are the three subdivisions of priesthood governed?

A. All these three look after their respective parishes under the jurisdiction of their Bishops. A Bishop says "I exhort the ministers who are among you, for I also am a minister and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and

also a partaker of the glory that shal
be revealed, feed the flock of Goc
which is entrusted to your care and
shepherd them spiritually.....'
(1 Peter 5: 1-2)

259. Q. Is there any status above priesthood?
A. Yes. There is the status of a Bishop,
which is the most important and the
most necessary. Without this there
could be no true church.

260. Q. What are the divisions of this status?
A. They are (1) Bishop (2) Metropolitan
and (3) Patriarch.

261. Q. What are the duties of an ordinary
Bishop?
A. An ordinary Bishop's duties are to
ordain Readers, Hypodeacons, Deacons
and Priests to his diocease, to bless
the appointment of Piryadhotha and to
say prayers over one when he is raised
to the rank of Archdeacon.

262. Q. When did our Lord Jesus Christ fulfill
the duties of a Bishop?
A. He did so when He breathed on His
disciples that they may receive the
Holy Spirit (John 20: 22, 23.) But then
they received the Holy Spirit in part
only; and the completeness thereof
came only on the day of Pentecost.

263. Q. What are the responsibilities of a
Metropolitan?

A. In addition to the execution of the duties of a Bishop, he consecrates the necessary Bishops needed for his diocease.

264. Q. Can a Bishop who receive consecration at the hands of a Metropolitan enter directly into his episcopal duties?

A. No. He can in no way enter directly into his duties of government until and unless he gets confirmation from the Patriarch. It is so stipulated by our Holy Fathers through the Canonical Rules.

265. Q. When did Jesus function as a Metropolitan?

A. Jesus did so when he lifted His hands on His disciples and blessed them (by the sign of the cross) (Luke 24: 50) and sent them to convert and baptize all the nations. (Matt. 28:19, 20)

266. Q. Which is the highest office (of priesthood)?

A. The highest office is that of the Patriarch which is "the Catholic Fatherhood".

267. Q. What are the functions of the office of the Catholicos Patriarch?

A. The duties of this office are to govern the whole Catholic Church, to consecrate Metropolitans and to confirm the appointments of Bishops.

A. Holy Spirit, the God, sanctifies mysteries.

280. Q. What does God require from those who receive Holy Mysteries?

A. God requires of them to believe, to repent of their sins and to take care to lead a new life in future.

281. Q. Can we derive any benefit from the Holy Mysteries in case we do not repent?

A. No. Not only we cannot be benefited by these, but on the contrary we will be liable to be punished.

282. Q. Suppose if a man receives the Holy Imposition of Hands without really repenting for his sins, will that ordination be in vain?

A. No. It won't be in vain; but till that recipient really repents truly, he shall not receive any grace therefrom for himself.

283. Q. If a very great sinner repents will God grant him Grace?

A. Of course, God will grant him, too grace; because Christ says "Come unto Me all you who are tired out and carrying burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

284. Q. Will God grant us sufficient grace in our fight with Achelcarsa (satan)?

A. Yes. Christ said to St. Paul "My Grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor. 12:9). St. Paul says to us "....He will not suffer you to be tempted beyond that you are able" (1 Cor. 10:13)

285. Q. Will God grant us grace in case we do not receive or accept Mysteries?

A. God will not grant us any grace if we deliberately undermine or reject Mysteries. It is because they are the means which God has instituted.

CHAPTER 9.

ABOUT BAPTISM

286. Q. Is Baptism necessary to all?

A. Yes. Our Lord Jesus Christ has said, ".....If a man is not born of the water and spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

287. Q. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is the spiritual bath in water in the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

288. Q. Who administers Baptism?

A. A Priest who has received the apostolic imposition of hands with his helper deacons.

A. Holy Spirit, the God, sanctifie mysteries.

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A. No. It won't be in vain; but till tha recipient really repents truly, he sha not receive any grace therefrom fc himself.

283. Q. If a very great sinner repents will Go grant him Grace?

A. Of course, God will grant him, to grace; because Christ says "Come uni Me all you who are tired out and carr ing burdens, and I will give you res (Matt. 11:28).

284. Q. Will God grant us sufficient grace i our fight with Achelcarsa (satan)?

A. Yes. Christ said to St. Paul "My Grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor. 12:9). St. Paul says to us "....He will not suffer you to be tempted beyond that you are able" (1 Cor. 10:13)

285. Q. Will God grant us grace in case we do not receive or accept Mysteries?

A. God will not grant us any grace if we deliberately undermine or reject Mysteries. It is because they are the means which God has instituted.

CHAPTER 9.

ABOUT BAPTISM

286. Q. Is Baptism necessary to all?

A. Yes. Our Lord Jesus Christ has said, ".....If a man is not born of the water and spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

287. Q. What is Baptism?

A. Baptism is the spiritual bath in water in the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

288. Q. Who administers Baptism?

A. A Priest who has received the apostolic imposition of hands with his helper deacons.

289. Q. Is it just for a layman to baptize others
A. No. It is in no way just; for a layma has not received the laying on of hand So he is not permitted to administer th Holy Mysteries as Kurbhana (Ho Sacrifice), the Imposition of hands et So also he should not baptize.

290. Q. What all are necessary for Baptism?
A. Pure olive oil and clear water. Bu both must be consecrated.

291. Q. How is Baptism completed ?
A. It is completed by immersing thrice water.

292. Q. How is the dipping done these thre times?
A. It is instructed in the 'Order of Baptism (Thaksa D'Amada) that "the one who being baptized must be immerse thrice: at first".....(name of the perso who receives Baptism) is baptized the name of Father. Amen; the secon time ".....in the name of the Son Amen and for the third time....."in th name of the Holy Ghost for ever an ever. Amen".

293. Q. What are the exterior signs, i. e., th visible and vocal signs, of Baptism?
A. The visible signs are water and oliv oil and that which is heard is "in th name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

294. Q. What is its hidden meaning?

A. It is the rebirth by which we become the members of Christ; because it is written "not so much by work of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)

295. Q. Why should we be reborn?

A. We are not born of the covenant of God; but in sin. It is therefore an extreme necessity for us to have a spiritual birth that we may have the remission of our sins and be admitted to the covenant of God. (John 3: 5; Acts 2: 38)

296. Q. From whom do we get our life in the first birth?

A. We receive it from our parents.

297. Q. From whom do we receive it when we are reborn?

A. We receive it in our rebirth from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gives His life for us.

298. Q. What does He do us in our rebirth?

A. He makes us in our rebirth the members of His body, flesh and bones. (Eph. 5:30).

299. Q. Were we holy when we were born?

A. No. We were brought forth in sin an even in our infancy we deserve th punishment of God.

300. Q. How is this natural sin absolved?

A. It is absolved by Baptism. Just a Messiah was buried and resurrected w also die for sin in the water of baptis and we resurrect forth from the water fo righteousness of the new life whic He gives us from Himself. "Do you no know, that those of us who have bee baptized into Jesus Christ have bee baptized into His death? Therefore w are buried with Him by Baptism int death: so that as Jesus Christ aros from the dead by the glory of His Fathe even so we also shall walk in a new life (Rom. 6:3,4; Eph. 5:25-27.) So says S Paul, the apostle.

301. Q. If an infidel, who is of mature age believes and accepts Baptism, will th sins he had committed so far b absolved?

A. Yes. St. Peter, on the day of Pentecos told the people ".....repent and b baptized, every one of you in the nam of Lord Jesus for the remission of sin so that you may receive the gift of th Holy Spirit". (Acts 2:38.) St. Paul say that Ananias spoke to him, ".....aris

and be baptized and wash away your sins calling on the name of the Lord". (Acts 22:16; 12–16.)

302. Q. Can we receive other Mysteries before we are baptized?

A. No. Baptism is the only gate for us to enter into the other Mysteries.

303. Q. Can you cite some examples of rebirth from the old Testament?

A. 1. The entrance of Noah into the arc and his rebirth from the water. (1 Peter 3:20,21.)

2. The passage of the House of Israelites through the Red Sea. (1 Cor. 10:1, 2.)

3. The incident of Naaman the Aramite, bathing in the river of Jordan seven times and becoming clean of his leprosy. (2 Kings 5:14.)

304. Q. Is it necessary that infants too should be baptized?

A. It is necessary that their natural (Original) sins must be absolved since they are born in sin and that they may be admitted into the covenant of God.

305. Q. How are the Jewish children admitted to the covenant of God?

A. The Jewish children are admitted into the covenant of God by circumcision on the eighth day of their birth.

306. Q. What do we learn from this?
A. We learn from this that if it was so highly necessary that children should be admitted into the incomplete covenant of the old Testament, how much more should it be so to admit them into the covenant of Christianity.

307. Q. From what all words of our Lord Jesus Christ do we learn this?
A. Christ said, "allow the little boys to come to Me and do not forbid them; for the Kingdom of God is for such as these.....(Then) He took them in His arms and put His hands on them and blessed them." (Mark 10:14-16)

308. Q. What does this prove?
A. This proves that it is not impossible even for little children to receive "Grace" or "Gift."

309. Q. What is the "Confirmation of Baptism"?
A. It is the completeness or sealing of the Grace of the Holy Ghost, which we receive through the laying on of hands of Baptism.

310. Q. How do we receive this?
A. Immediately after immersing the one who is to be baptized, in the Baptismal font, the priest with deacons and the necessary accessories comes out

through the big door of the "Madbaha" (Altar) and standing on the steps thereof recites, as is written in the end of the prayers of the Baptism Service:— "(Such and such a one, he or she) is baptized and confirmed in the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

311 Q. What does the priest do when he recites this?

A. He confirms by drawing the sign of the living cross by the Holy ointment on the forehead of the recipient of Baptism.

312. Q. Can you prove from the Bible that this Confirmation of Baptism is indispensible to us ?

A. Yes. We read in the scriptures that St. Peter and St. John went down to a Samaritan city from Jerusalem to lay their hands on those whom St. Philip (Pheelepose) had baptized in Samarin, that they might receive the Holy Ghost. (Acts 8:5-17). The disciples at Ephesus who had received only the Baptism of St. John, the Baptist, were asked to receive the Baptism of Christians and their Baptism was confirmed by laying hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost. So we read about St. paul. (Acts 19: 1-6)

313. Q. By what other name is the Confirmation of Baptism known?

A. It is called 'the Seal' as it is written "Now it is God who has confirmed us with you in Christ and who has anointed us; and who has sealed us and pledged His Spirit in our hearts. (2 Cor. 1:21,22) St. Paul says again "do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God whereby you are sealed unto the day of salvation. (Eph. 4: 30.) It is also called 'the Anointing'. (1 John 2: 20-27).

CHAPTER 10

ABOUT KURBHANA QUADDISHA (HOLY MASS)

314. Q. What is 'Kurbhana' (Mass)?

A. Mass is a great mystery.

315. Q. What do you learn from the word 'Mystery'? (In Syriac language 'Raza' means mystery.)

A. This word might have various meanings. But I understand this as that which is above our knowledge, i. e. that which is beyond our research and wisdom and impossible to be grasped, yet which could be found out and realised by belief.

316. Q. Is this Mystery of Mass necessary for all men?

A. Yes. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ says, "Truly, truly I say unto you, unless you eat the Body of the Son of Man, and drink His Blood you have no life in yourself." (John 6:53).

317. Q. What are the things needed for Kurbhana?

A. Bread made of wheat and wine prepared from grapes.

318. Q. Of what variety should the bread be?

A. It must be made like other breads with flour, leven (yeast), salt, water and three drops of olive oil.

319. Q. Will anything more be added to these?

A. Yes. Before baking, 'Malcha' or 'Hmeera Quaddisha' which is the 'Holy leven', traditionally preserved by the church, as handed down by the Apostles, is added to that portion which only is used for the Mass.

320. Q. What is 'Patheera'?

A. 'The unlevened bread' as against 'the bread of the Scriptures' is called 'Patheera'.

321. Q. Can we use the unlevened bread for Mass?

A. No. It cannot be used since our Lor Jesus Christ has not used that and wa not known during the first centuries t the church.

322. Q. How do you know that Jesus did no use it?

A. Various methods of preparing breac are described in the Bible. But ther are differences between those words c methods. 'Lahma' (Bread) is or prepared from levened flour an 'Patheera' (lifeless, tasteless) is mac of unlevened flour. It is stated th Jesus Christ took 'Lahma'.

323. Q. Can you explain this a little more clearly

A. Yes. I will explain. 'The True Passov Lamb' is 'The Lamb of God, whic taketh away the sins of the world'. was therefore highly necessary that H too, should be sacrificed at the day an time of the offering of the Passov Lamb. We see clearly from the Gosp of St. John that because of this He too His supper the day preceeding th Passover. (John 13:1-38; 18:1-12, 28, 2

324. Q. Who must be the celebrant of this Ho Mystery?

A. A Priest (Kaseesha), who is ordained b the Apostolic Imposition of Hands—a

those in rank above him too may celebrate—with the deacons.

325. Q. What are the exterior, i. e. visible, signs of Holy Mass?

A. Lahma (Bread), as has been commanded by our Lord Jesus Christ, and wine.

326. Q. What are the interior signs of Holy Mass?

A. They are the flesh and blood of Christ.

327. Q. When did our Lord institute this Holy Mystery?

A. He instituted this Holy Mystery at the last supper on the day preceeding the Passover as He was to be offered on the cross on the day of Passover.

328. Q. How did He institute this?

A. "……Our Lord Jesus on that very night in which He was betrayed took bread: and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise after supper, He also gave the cup, and said, this cup is the new testament in My blood: do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (1 Cor. 11:23-25.)

329. Q. What does St. Paul, the apostle, say of that which we do in the Holy Sacrament of Mass?

A. St. Paul says, ".....Whenever you e this bread and drink this cup, you cor memorate our Lord's death until H comes". (1 Cor. 11:26.)

330. Q. How is this?

A. This Mystery is a commemoration of ou Lord's death for all times. So, the sam sacrifice which Christ fulfilled on th cross is being offered to God and revealed to Angels and men.

331. Q. By what designation is Holy Mass know because of this?

A. Because of this, it is called 'the Christia Sacrifice (Offering)'; and also it is ofte known as 'the Bloodless Sacrifice'.

332. Q. Is this another sacrifice apart from th one, which Christ fulfilled on the cross

A. No. Christ has offered only one sacrific which He fulfilled on the cross as written, "By this very will, we ar sanctified through the offering of th body of Jesus Christ once for all ..... But this Man after He had offered on sacrifice for sins, sat down on the rig hand of God for ever". (Heb. 10:10,12 Holy Kurbhana (Mass) is the everlastin memorial of that sacrifice before th Holy Trinity. It is also written, "Yo have come nearer.....to Jesus, th Mediator of the new covenant, and the sprinkling of His blood, whic speaks a better message than Abel did (Heb. 12:23, 24.)

333. Q. What do you prove by the fact which is stated in the 24th verse of Hebrews 12th Chapter?

A. Abel was killed and he died: therefore his blood was crying justly. (Gen. 4:10). Jesus Christ, too, was crucified and He also died truly, (Matt. 27: 50; John 19: 30-37), but He rose up from the dead. (Luke 24. 5, 6). He, of a certainty, will not die again. (Rom. 6: 9; Rev. 1: 18) Therefore it means that by the Holy Mystery of Kurbhana "it speaks for ever a better message than Abel did".

334. Q. How dare you to say this?

A. I dare to say this because the cup of thanks-giving which we bless and the bread which we break are the communion of the blood and body of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 10:16)

335. Q. By whom is this 'Offering of Remembrance' offered?

A. 1. In Heaven by Jesus Christ Himself, because, it is written about this deed that, "Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Malchesdeck" (Psalm. 110:4), "and this Man, because He is immortal, has a priesthood which remains for ever ..... for this is the kind of High Priest proper for us".

(Heb. 7:24, 26) These and the lik
(Heb. 7: 17-28; 8: 3; 9: 11-14, 23-28) ar
recorded. It is also stated "Now abov
all we have a High Priest, who i
seated at the right hand of the thron
of Majesty in heaven; and He ha
become the Minister of the Sanctuary
and of the true tabernacle, whic
God pitched and not man". (Heb.8:1-3

2. On earth, too, the priests as th
representatives of Jesus Christ offe
it. In another way, all the Christian
who have assembled to receive
when the priest celebrates it, are als
offering them. "But you are a chose
people, ministers to the kingdom....
(1 Peter 2: 9)

336. Q. Had the Jews more than one sacrifice

A. Yes. They were to offer new sacrifice
daily. The aim of all these sacrifice
was to remind the covenant in con
nection with the Christ to come.

337. Q. If Christ has offered only one sacrific
which He completed on the cross, the
what effect is there in Kurbhana?

A. It is written ".....every High Priest
appointed to offer gifts and sacrifice
therefore it is necessary that this Ma
have something to offer also", (Heb.8:3

"This Man, because He is immortal, has a priesthood which remains for ever." (Heb. 7: 24, 25-28). But this is a very deep mystery. Even now Jesus executes the services of a High Priest. We too, offer to God, through Him, Holy Kurbhana that we might remind Him of the death and the second coming of His Son.

338. Q. Does not God remember without being reminded?

A. Yes. Surely; for God knows what we need before we pray Him. (Matt. 6: 8, 31, 32), but He has commanded us to pray. (Luke 11: 5-13; 18: 7, 8 etc.) So also he has desired that we should remind Him by offering. (I Cor. 11:26)

339. Q. By which of His words has Christ instructed us to offer this commemoration sacrifice?

A. "This do in remembrance of Me", (1 Cor. 11: 24, 25) so said Christ, our Saviour.

340. Q. Can you cite some of the prophecies about this Christian Sacrifice?

A. It is stated ".....from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same My name shall be great among the gentiles, and in every place incence shall be offered unto My name, and a

pure offering; for My name shall b
great among the heathens, saith th
Lord of Hosts". (Malachi 1:11) More ma
be seen in Malachi 3:1-4, Isaiah 56:6, 7
Jeremiah 33:15-22 etc.

341. Q. How do we know that these prophecie
are about the sacrifices of Christian
and not about the offerings of Jews?

A. The gentiles or heathens did not be
come Jews; but they became Christian
and offer sacrifices accordingly. There
fore it was not the sacrifice of th
Christians that was destroyed but thos
of the Jews.

342. Q. What do we do by this Christia
Sacrifice?

A. We worship and adore God by thi
offering, for the worship or adoration o
God is the prime duty of men.

343. Q. What is this worship a shadow of ?

A. It is the shadow of the worship in Heave
of the Lamb as it had been slain
(Rev. 5: 6-9)

344. Q. What more do we do by this sacrifice

A. We praise God, pray for our sins, an
beseech for all good to those who no
live and for those who are dead in Jesu
Christ, in true belief. It is written '
beseech you, therefore, first of all t

offer to God petitions, prayers, supplications and thanksgiving for all men, for kings and for all in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life, in all purity and godliness". (1 Thim. 2:1, 2)

345. Q. When is the Kurbhana sanctified?

A. It is sanctified when the priest invokes the Holy Ghost to sanctify that, i. e. when he recites the prayer," Neethi Mar Rukah Quaddisha..."whereby he invokes and beseeches "Oh Lord! Let thy Holy Ghost come and live upon this sacrifice of thy servants and bless and sanctify this.....".

346. Q What more is Holy Kurbhana besides being a Commemoration Sacrifice ?

A. It is a heavenly feast for our souls.

347. Q. How did our Lord Jesus teach us this?

A. Christ said "Take, eat; this is my body" and again "Receive ye and drink; This cup is the new testament of my blood".

348. Q. Because of this what did Christ designate Himself?

A. He called Himself "the Bread of Life", He said, "I am the Bread of Life, he who comes to Me shall never hunger; and he who believes in Me, shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

349. Q. In what manner should a communican receive Holy Kurbhana?

A. It may be done in two ways:

1. The first and the most appropriate i: Place the right hand, with palm up wards, in that of the left, in the shap of a cross and on that cross, receiv the Holy Body of Christ, from th priest. Then, with humility, piet and fear take that heavenly food b the mouth. This is the commandmer of Christ and the tradition of th church. (Matt. 26:26)*

2. The second and that which has i origin in the baseless piety of som believers is; to receive it in the mout only. If you wish to receive it in th mouth, raise your head a little an opening your mouth accept it fro the officiating priest, in all solemnit

350. Q. What should we do after receiving th Holy Body?

A. We must obey the commandment Christ as church observed it. (1 Cor l 26 & Matt. 26: 27) We must then go t the deacon, who stands at the righ

* "Hayyil Maran....."means "Oh! our Lord! strengthen our han which we extend to receive Holy Kurbhana for the remission our sins....."

side of the door of the altar, to administer the cup and drink the Holy Blood therefrom.

351. Q. How are we to drink the cup?

A. We must bring our mouths to the Holy cup and holding the brim of the cup between our lips, must drink from it, taking care not to spill drops from it.

352. Q. Does the substance of the bread and wine in this Holy Mystery undergo any change?

A. If there is transubstantiation, it is not at all a Mystery. If it is a Mystery, then truly, it is the Body and Blood of Christ. Not by change of substance (transubstantiation), but by strength and remission it is one with Him. The Holy Patriarchs of the church assert that "the body that sits on the right side of heaven with glory and the body that which the priests break in the church are one and the same."

353. Q. How could this be?

A. Just as the Word of God, by His incarnation, (assumption of human nature) had communion with our nature and become one Messiah and one Lord, so also the Messiah effects a mysterious communion with the bread and wine that are placed on the Holy Altar. (1 Cor. 10:16)

354. Q. How does Jesus reward those who receive His Holy Body and Blood with repentance and belief?

A. Jesus gives them grace to fight the Satan and to grow in purity.

355. Q. By which of His words Jesus made this promise?

A. Christ says. "He who eats of My body and drinks of My Blood has eternal life and I will raise him at the last day. For My Body truly is the food and my Blood truly is the drink." (John 6:54, 55)

356. Q. Can we fight Satan without this grace?

A. No. Never. For just as our body requires temporal food, so also our souls must have the spiritual food that they may be strenghtened to face Satan or temptations.

357. Q. How should we, therefore, prepare ourselves for receiving the Flesh and Blood of Christ?

A. We must examine ourselves (1Cor 11:28) turn from our sins with repentance, take care well to walk in the new life, believe in the covenant of God, be grateful with regard to the death of our Saviour and behave in love towards all other people.

358. Q. At what age should we receive Holy Kurbhana?

A. If we request food by crying immediately after our worldly birth, how much more must it be necessary for us to have the heavenly food simultaneously with our rebirth in spirit?

359. Q. Can we derive any benefit from this Mystery in case we do not repent?

A. No. We won't derive any benefit from this in case we do not repent and turn from our sins. "For he who eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks to his condemnation; for he does not discern the Lord's Body." (1Cor. 11: 29)

360. Q. Can we distinguish the method whereby Christ gives us His body and blood?

A. No. It is so great a Mystery that even the most wise of men cannot fathom that; but even a small child may believe it.

361. Q. What did the Jews say when our Lord Jesus promised them His body and blood?

A. They said "How can this man give us His body to eat?" (John 6:52)

362. Q. What do we learn from this Jewish doubt?

A. We ought to learn from this that if Jesus commands anything we must take it in all belief and without any doubt.

CHAPTER 11.

ABOUT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

363. Q. When did God give the Ten Commandments?

A. He gave it on Mount Sinai, through the Prophet Moses.

364. Q. How were the Commandments given?

A. God wrote them on two tables of stone (Exodus 32: 15, 16; 31: 18; 20: 1-2 Deut. 9: 9, 10)

365. Q. Were not these ten commandments given to the congregation of the Jews

A. Yes. It was given to the Jews; but they are intended for all men in the world Besides, it is highly necessary for Christians.

366. Q. Why are they so highly necessary for Christians?

A. The vineyard of God was the church of Jews. (Isa. 5: 1-7; Matt. 21:33, 41) But yielding no fruit the same church which was the Kingdom of Heaven was entrusted to "the nation that yields fruits" (i. e. The Christian church) with commandments. (Matt. 21:43) Not only

this, Jesus says "Do not expect that I have come to weaken the law or the Prophets; I have not come to weaken, but to fulfil." (Matt. 5:17)

367. Q. If so, are the Christians responsible to observe the whole of commandments?

A. No. "The temporary ordinances of the law which were only the shadows and imitations" (Eph. 2:15) were abolished by Christ by His own commandments; for they were necessary till the coming of Christ, the true body. St. Paul proves this again in his epistle to Galatians 3: 24, 25.

368. Q. Then did He not abolish the Ten Commandments?

A. No. The Ten Commandments "show the work of the law written on their Hearts", (Rom. 2:15) not only to the Jews and Christians but for all men and all generations and reveal to the gentiles the wish of God about good and bad.

369. Q. What does these ten commandments teach us?

A. They teach us our duties and obligations towards God, our neighbours and all men.

370. Q. What are our duties towards God?

A. They contain in the four commandmen written on the first slab. *

371. Q. What are our duties towards men?

A. The remaining six commandmen written on the second slab show us ou duty towards men.

372. Q. In what manner should we observ these commandments, as taught by ou Lord Jesus Christ?

A. Jesus taught us to observe these con mandments not only in words but als in spirit; and not only in deed but i thought and speech also. (Matt. 5:19-4

* The verses of the Ten Commandments written on the two slabs a contained in 2 to 17th verses of the 20th Chapter of Exodu (Deut. 5: 6-21 also). They are written by the finger of Go Ex. 31: 18; 32: 15-16; Deut. 5: 22; 9: 9, 10; 10: 4). In number to they are ten. (Ex. 34: 28; Deut. 10: 4); but no specification h been made in the scriptures as to their serial number as one, t etc. It is because of this that slight differences are seen amon Christians themselves in deciding their order. But all those w truly obey the ten commandments admit that they are the whole 2 to 17th verses of the 20th Chapter of Exodus. The slight c ferences discerned in their serial number does not matter mu But there are some people, woe to them, who do not obey t whole of Bible and who try to adulterate the pure and Holy Chr tianity by the practices of Gentiles which God has discountinenc and who obstinately insist that they are highly indespensible. Th do not teach these ten commandments (Ex. 20:2-17) in the sa manner as the finger of God has written them. But they add sorts of fabrications to them and teach them as such. Thus th removed the 2nd commandment or the completion of the first, f it is quite against their desire of idolatory, their services to idols and hope in them. St. Augustine says, "falsifications, ev with a view to help the church, if introduced into the scriptur then what constancy is therein that which is written?", and this quite true.

373. Q. Recite the first commandment?
A. Thou shalt not love other Gods before me.

374. Q. What do you learn from this commandment?
A. I learn from this that I must believe in God, I must fear Him and I must love Him with all my spirit, all my heart, all my mind and all my strength. Again I must serve Him in thought and deed. (Mark 12: 29, 30)

375. Q. What is the second commandment?
A. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.....and keep My commandments. (Page 2)

376. Q. What do you learn from this commandment?
A. I learn from this that we are to worship and adore God in accordance with the instructions which God has given us through His church and that I should not respect or worship idols.

377. Q. What is an idol?
A. Anything which is made of wood, stone, silver, gold or any other things either by Christians or by gentiles or anybody else in the likeness of corruptible man, of bird, of fourfooted beasts and of creeping things and the like "that they may

change the glory of uncorruptible God is called an 'idol' or 'image'. (Rom 1: 23-25)

378. Q. Can we worship God without idols?

A. The question whether we could worship God without idols is really deplorable. If we believe that, "God is Spirit", it is written that, "..... God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. (John 4: 24)

379. Q. Why should not we worship idols?

A. We should not worship idols or image as it is so decided by God and commanded under pain of curse. (Deu 27:15) Besides, the sacrifices offered to them are really being offered to devils. (1 Cor. 10:19-22) It is because of this St. Paul orders and advises us not to do so. (2 Cor. 6:14-18)

380. Q. Recite the third commandment?

A. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord.....(Page 3)

381. Q. What do you learn form this commandment?

A. I learn from this that the Holy name of God must be respected and adorned and that I should not use it in vain. Moreover I should not make a false oath, and should not utter blasphemy.

382. Q. Is there anything more to be studied from this commandment ?

A. It should also be studied from this commandment that we should not in any way insult, ignore or ridicule the Holy Mysteries of the church and the sacred things thereof, which bring us into close contact with God and that we should respect the worship of God and His abode. (Eccle. 5:1)

383. Q. Recite the fourth commandment?

A. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.....(Page 3)

384. Q. What do you learn from this?

A. I learn from this that I shall work only on the six days of the week and I must keep Sunday, which is the Lord's day, and the festival days as Holy and must observe all the fasts of the church as instituted by God.

385. Q. How should we keep Holy the Lord's and the festival days?

A. We can keep it Holy by resting from our worldly jobs, by reading the scriptures, by attending the services of God in the church, by listening to the words preached and by becoming partakers in the sacrifices offered; for it is seen that it was the practice of the church in

accordance with the words of scripture as, ".....on the 1st day of the wee while the disciples were assembled t break bread, Paul preached to them.... (Acts 20:7; 2:42, 46, 47; 1 Cor. 10:17, 1

386. Q. Which is the Lord's day in the week?

A. The Lord's day is Sunday, the first da of the week.

387. Q. Then why does this commandment insi upon resting on the 7th day, i. Saturday?

A. It is because God commanded th Israelites to keep Holy the 7th day o which He rested from the work creation.

388. Q. If so why does the church teach us t sanctify the first day of the week.

A. On the first day of the creation, Go commanded, "Let there be light. (Gen. 1:3) When the angels heard th order they thought that as they are ligh (Psalm 104:4; Heb. 1:7) the One wh created them too must be the One wh ordered "Let there be light." Accor ingly they began to worship that On who issued that order from that sam day, i. e. Sunday, the 1st day of th week. Besides it was on a Sunday th Christ was risen from the dead. (Ma 28:1) For these reasons the church co siders this day as a Holy one.

389. Q. Recite the fifth commandment?
A. Honour thy father and thy mother..... (Page 3)

390. Q. What do you learn from this commandment?
A. I learn from this that I must respect, obey and help my parents.

391. Q. Is there only so much to learn from this?
A. No. There is much more to be studied in that. The clergy of the church, who are above me in age, status and honour, my teachers and the Government officials must be honoured, obeyed and helped. (Heb. 13: 17; 1 Cor. 16: 15, 16; 1 Thess. 5:12, 13; Rom. 16: 1, 2; 13:1-14 etc.)

392. Q. What is the sixth commandment?
A. Thou shalt not kill.

393. Q. What do you learn from this one?
A. I learn from this that not only, I shall not kill others, but I shall not foster grudge, anger, jealousy, deceit and the like in my heart against others. Besides, I shall not hurt or cause annoyance to anybody, as our Lord Jesus Christ has instructed, (Matt. 5: 21-26, 38-48; Rom. 12:16-21 etc.) either by word, deed, stratagem, treachery or any such vices.

394. Q. What is the seventh commandment?
A. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

395. Q. What does adultery mean?
A If a man has illicit intercourse with woman who is not his wife, it is calle adultery. So also is it in the case of woman who does thus with one of th other sex. Because "Marriage is honou able in all and the bed undefiled", (He 13:4) and "God will judge those wh practice vice and adultery". (Heb. 13: 1 Cor. 6: 9, 10 etc.)

396. Q. What more has we to learn from this?
A. We have to learn from this that we mu control our mind and body and kee them pure and be Holy in though speech and deed.

397. Q. Does this commandment suggest an thing else?
A. Yes. It suggests that we must keep alc not only from this great and horrib sin but also from obscene language, ba sight, lust, drunkenness, wicked co pany and the like which afford amp opportunities for this. So we are co manded too. (Matt. 5: 27-32; 1 Cor. 9-12; 6: 12-19; 7: 1-9; Gal. 5: 16-21)

398. Q. Recite the eighth commandment?
A. Thou shalt not steal.

399. Q. What do you learn from this?
A I learn from this that I shall not ste deceive, covet, flatter, mislead or explo

400. Q. Do you learn anything more from this?
A. I learn that we must be true and just in all our deeds and words. Like hypocrites we should not refrain from the execution of our duties as well as that of those entrusted to us. We should not covet to get that which is not legally ours.

401. Q. Recite the nineth commandment?
A. Thou shalt not bear false witness..... ... (Page 3)

402. Q. What do you learn from this?
A. I learn from this commandment that we must refrain from evil words, bad deeds, theft, deceit or crookedness; and that we should not scandalise or try to set one against the other. We must guard and control our tongues that we may not insult or grieve others by our words.

403. Q. What is the tenth commandment?
A. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbours..... (Page 4)

404. Q. What do you learn from this commandment?
A. Our Lord Jesus Christ has instructed us that, "whatsoever you wish men to do for you, do likewise also for them." (Luke 6: 31: Matt. 7:12) As such and as we do not wish others to covet our houses, wives or anything that are ours,

we too should not have a greedy an lawless desire for the houses, wive servants, oxen, asses or anything tha belong to any of our colleagues i mankind.

405. Q. Is it all that you learn from this?

A. No. I further learn from this that w should not mis-appropriate the wealt of our co-mates, or try to take possessio of them by illegal means even if we sha lack our mental peace (false peace) fo not getting it.

406. Q. When will we be covetous?

A. We become covetous when we alway concentrate our attention to becom rich and when we consider that ou wealth is for our own benefit only.

407. Q. In which verses has our Lord summ rised these ten commandments?

A. As these ten commandments teach u our responsibilities and duties toward God and Man they are included in th essence of the Ten Commandments.

408. Q. Recite the summary or essence of th ten commandments?

A. Hear! Oh Israel! The Lord of our Go is one Lord.....(Page 4)

CHAPTER 12

ABOUT PRAYER, FAST AND ALMS.

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1. PRAYER.

409. Q. What is prayer?

A. 1. Giving praise to God.
2. Request to God to grant us and others our necessities
3. Supplication to deliver us from the evil spirit, i. e. Satan. That which we submit to God about these is prayer.

410. Q. Will God grant grace to all who beseech Him?

A. Yes. Our Lord Jesus has promised us once "ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. For whoever asks, receive and he who seeks find, and to him who knocks the door is opened." (Matt. 7: 7, 8)

411. Q. How should we pray?

A. We should pray believing (Matt. 17:20; 21:21,22; John 14:12 etc.), always without ceasing (Luke 18:1; 1 Chroni. 28:9), submitting our will to that of God (Matt. 6;10; 26: 39, 42; John 5:30), direct to

Father (Matt. 6:6, 9), to Father in th
name of Jesus (John 15: 16; 16: 23, 24
to Jesus in His name (John 14: 13, 14) an
to the Holy Ghost and through Hir
(John 14: 16, 17, 26; Rom. 8: 26, 27; 1 Co
14: 14, 15)

412. Q. Can we pray for all we wish?

A. If we know that our desire is not again
the will of God, we may pray for an
thing and everything. For the scriptu
teaches us "Do not worry over thing
but always by prayer and supplicatio
with thanksgiving let your requests b
made known to God." (Phili. 4:6)

413. Q. Does God always listen to our prayer

A. If we do pray believing, God will alwa
hear our prayers and though – not in
manner we have expected, we will,
a certainty, receive blessings from H
and enjoy them. (2 Cor. 12: 7-9)

414. Q. Is it proper on our part to pray f
others?

A. If we pray for others, St. Paul says th
"this is good and acceptable in the sig
of God, our Saviour." (1 Thim. 2:3, 1.
Jesus Christ Himself instructs us a
enjoins us "to pray for them who car
you away by force and persecute yo
(Matt. 5: 43-48) St. James too, advis

us to "confess our faults one to another and pray one for another that you may be healed." (James 5:16)

415. Q. Recite our Lord's prayer?
A. Our Father in Heaven! Hallowed be thy name..... Page 1)

416. Q. How could we divide this prayer?
A. 1. "Our Father in Heaven..... .. so on earth." This is giving praise to God.
2. Give us this day our daily bread..... have offended us." By this we beseech God to grant us and others our necéssities.
3. "Bring us not to trial .....Glory for ever." Thus we supplicate God to deliver us from the Satan or temptor.

417. Q. Can you divide this prayer in any other way?
A. This may be divided unto ten parts as the spiritual example of the ten commandments
1. Our Father in Heaven ! Hallowed be thy name.
2. Thy kingdom come.
3. Thy will be done.
4. As in heaven so on earth.
5. Give us this day the bread of our need.
6. Forgive us our offences.

7. As we have also forgiven those wh
have offended us.
8. Bring us not to trial.
9. Deliver us from the evil one.
10. Thine is the kingdom, and the powe
and the glory for ever.....Amen.

418. Q. What should we, as in duty bound, d
before we pray God to forgive us o
sins?

A. Before we pray God to forgive us o
sins we too must forgive those wh
have offended against us. So has Jes
Christ taught us. (Matt. 6:14,15; Mark
25, 26; Eph. 4:32; Colo. 3:13 etc.)

419. Q. How many times a day must we pray

A. If we love God, as love is boundle
prayer too must be without ceasing; i.
we must be praying always: (Rom. 12:
Phili. 4:6; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:17; Lu
18:1; Acts 2:42; 12: 5 etc.)

420. Q. If it is so, how can we attend to oth
duties?

A. If you take it at the word, it is impo
sible. But, this only means that we mu
live always in thought, word and de
as we are in the presence of God,
all times.

421. Q. Is not there, then, any fixed and spec
time for prayer?

A. Yes. In ancient days "seven times of prayers" were usual (Psalm 119: Sheen. 164). The Catholic Patriarchs of our church reserved these for anchorites and hermits. Yet some pious priests and believers were observing this practice of praying seven times a day, because of their ardent desire for prayer. But the fathers of the church who succeeded them realising that the worldly people, because of their overwhelming duties of the time and the consequent waxing cold of the desire for prayer, do not carry out this properly, cut short and restricted them to four times a day, instead of seven. They are:—

1. The Evening Prayer (Ramsa),
2. Prayer before going to bed at night (Soobhatha);
3 The Night Prayer (Lilya) and
4. The Morning Prayer (Supra).

422. Q. Is it obligatory on us to devote ourselves for these four times of prayer?

A. It is obligatory on us. No doubt; but The Night Prayer (Lilya) is not compulsory for laymen.

423. Q. What are the order, time and aim of these three times of prayer a day?

A. 1. At first comes the Morning Praye and its time is early dawn. As labou preceeds the rest; a layman, befor he goes to his daily work, must pra that he might be strengthened an may escape the injuries which coul be inflicted by Satan, who ever trie in the shape of "the arrow that flie by day and the pestilence th wasteth at noonday" and (Psalm 91: 6), to upset his soul through his wo and to get him into the trap of sin.

2. The second period of prayer for layman is the evening (Ramsa). I time is before sunset. By this h thanks God for having guarded hi safe during the daytime, requests fo the remission of sins and errors h had committed in the day forgon prays for his rest during the succee ing night and beseeches to deliv him from "the terror of the night (and) the pestilence that walketh the darkness." (Psalm 91:5, 6)

3. Thirdly comes the prayer aft Supper or the prayer before retirin to rest. (Soobhatha) He takes ca thereby that his dreams should n be affected by those which he ha

done, seen or heard in the day time and prays for the remission of his sins to the merciful Jesus, that he may be allowed to lead a life as a true believer. Further, he meditates on his death and takes a vow to God that he will not sin again in case he is allowed to see the following dawn. He must also contemplate about the day of Judgement of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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2. FAST.

424. Q. Why does the church teach us to fast?
A. Jesus Christ says, "..... the days are coming when the Bridegroom (Christ) will be taken away from them, and then they will fast." (Matt. 9:15) Hence the church teach us to fast.

425. Q. Why should we fast?
A. It is just to think of our sins always and to turn away, from them in true repentance. It is written in 'Hudra'* that "If our souls do not keep aloof from the evil influences of sin abstinence from food is of no use."

426. Q. Are we to abstain only from vituals (food)?

* A Syriac Prayer Book which contains prayers for the obligatory days throughout the year.

A. No. Because of our love towards ou Lord Jesus Christ we must sacrifice ou selves in various ways; i. e. we mus give alms, should not accept interes on money lent, must humble ourselve must observe vigil through night t pray with tears, must read the scripture and must do such other penances.

427. Q. How did our Lord teach us to observ these?

A. His whole life was a sacrifice. (Phili. 3-9) He is not only our forerunner, bu One who has ordered us that, "He wh wishes to come after Me, let him den himself and take up his cross and follo Me." (Matt. 16:24)

428. Q. What does Apostle St. Paul say abou this ?

A. St. Paul says, "....I conquer and subdu my body, so that; by no chance, whe I have preached to others, will I despis myself". (1 Cor. 9:25, 26, 27)

429. Q. Which are the fast days?

A. There are many fast days. They are:-
"Twenty-five Days' Fast"(Soobhara)
"Three Day's Fast" (The Ninevite
"Fifty Day's Lent" (Great Fast)
The Apostles' Fast" (Fifty days afte Pentecos
"Prophet Elijah's Fast" (Fifty days),

"St. Mary's Fast" (Fifteen days)
These are besides the fasts observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays.

430. Q. Are all these fasts obligatory on all?
A. With the exemption of the Great Fast of our Lord (Great Fast) and the three days Ninevite Fast; which are specially insisted upon by canons, the remaining fasts are not so compulsory. But, as the twenty-five days of Soobhara are observed by our church in general as if one of those insisted by the church, it is not desirable to break it.

431. Q. Can the aged and the sick seek exemption from the observance of these fasts?
A. Yes. They may approach the head of the church and after the submission of their explanation of the situation, may request for an exemption from these fasts. They may then break it with his previous sanction. But when they have recouped their health they must fast, if possible, double the number of days they have broken it.

432. Q. What should we eat during fast days?
A. We must abstain from flesh, fish, milk, egg, ghee and such other nutritious foods. All vegetable stuffs are allowable.

433. Q. How is a true fast to be observed?

A. Excepting the Sundays of the fa season we shall take only one food day and that of vegetables.

434. Q. How should we observe the usual fas of Wednesdays and Fridays?

A. It is stipulated by the canons of th Apostles that on these two days w must abstain from flesh; but the churc in general, though not in accordanc with the rules, usually refrain fro taking ghee, milk and the like.

435. Q. Why do we fast on Wednesdays an Fridays?

A. On a Wednesday the Jews and Juda Iscariot conspired to crucify our Lo Jesus Christ (Luke 22: 1-6) and on Friday they carried out their decisi of Wednesday. (Luke 22: 66; 23: 5 These being mourning periods, we fa

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3. ALMS.

436. Q. What does 'alms' mean?

A. It means that which we give to t poor, the helpless, the orphans, t widows, the destitute, the persecut and the oppressed, by way of foo money or anything else that they m be relieved of their difficulties a

necessities. Besides, the dedication of a portion of our earnings to be utilised for the glory of God and philanthropic ends is also known as alms.

437. Q. What does 'dedication for the glory of God' mean ?

A. It is a contribution for the true religion i. e. to build churches, to provide them with utensils and fund, to satisfy the wants of Bishops, priests and deacons of the church, who either administer to the needs of the believers in the service of God or who do the work of evangelisation among the gentiles. Jesus says, "a labourer is worthy of his wages" (Luke 10:7; 1 Thim. 5:17). The Apostle St. Paul confirms this by saying "Now if we have sown among you spiritual things, is it too much that we should reap material things, from you?" (1 Cor. 9:11, 13, 14)

438. Q. What deserving and appropriate names are there in the scriptures, for the alms that are given to the church and its shepherds and ministers as Bishops, priests and deacons?

A. They are known by various names: 'Expense', 'The fruit of the garden (Vineyard)', 'Milk of the Flock', (1 Cor. 9:

7, 18; 2 Cor. 11:8, 9; Phil. 4: 17), 'Collect ion for the Saints', (1 Cor. 16: 1; Acts 24: 17), 'The Gracious Gift', (1 Cor.16:3) 'The ministration to the Saints', 'Bless ing', 'Fruits of righteousness', 'The wants of Saints', 'The incomparable gift o God' (2 Cor. 9: 1, 6, 10, 12, 15), 'Share in difficulties', 'Needs', 'Fragrant Perfume' 'Sacrifice acceptable to God', (Phili. 4 14, 16, 18), 'Kindness and fellowship with the poor' (Heb. 13: 16) etc., etc. I is written in Hebrew 13:16, "for, with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

439. Q. How should we give alms as taught by Christ ?

A. Christ has taught us "to be careful con cerning our alms; not to do them in the presence of man merely that they may see them. Therefore, when you give alms do not blow a trumpet before you, but when you give alms let not your left hand know what your right hand is doing; so that your alms may be done secretly and your Father who sees in secret shall Himself reward you openly. (Matt. 6: 1, 3, 4)

440. Q. Is giving of alms obligatory only on the rich ?

A. No. All of us, whether we be rich or poor, must, in relation to our capacity;, give alms. About that poor widow who cast her two coins equal to two farthings into the coffer of the church, Jesus said "Truly I say unto you that this poor widow has cast in the treasury more than all the men who are casting." (Mark 12: 42, 43)

441. Q. Against what are prayer, fast and alms aimed at?

A. They are aimed against the lust of the body, the covetousness of the eyes and the pride of material things. (1 John 2:16)

THE END

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